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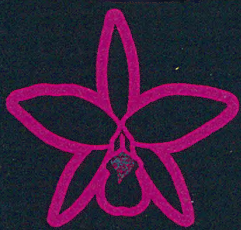
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VOLUME 75 – No. 2



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From the Editor's Desk

Firstly, thank you for the many expressions of positive feedback we have received since our last issue to the new style, format and content – coinciding with the 75th Anniversary of the *Australian Orchid Review*. This was in the form of letters, emails, phone calls and most importantly reaction from a number of advertisers. It was noted that we had implemented a number of changes and improvements but we still have a number of new initiatives planned! The magazine now looks extremely polished and we have already had a significant increase in the number of newsagency sales. You will also note that we have a growing number of advertisers, representing the major players in Australia, so please support them with your business, either by mail order, nursery visits or at the various major orchid fairs and shows held around the country. The AOR is clearly THE place for serious advertisers to publicise their product, with our combined subscription base and readership well over five times that of our main competition.

We have discontinued publishing the many orchid show dates that previous took up several pages per issue, as we have found that mostly the people checking these have been the publicity officers for their local club or society! The vast majority of readers have indicated that they would prefer that space to be devoted to more topical articles and photographs of orchids – that are more useful as reference material. When we have our website up and running, we will publish the showdates there with constant updates. The various State orchid bodies have most of these showdates on their dedicated websites, with the major ones paying for advertising space.

This issue sees the winning entries from both the OSCOV Victorian Orchids of the Year 2009 and the SAGE ACS Cymbidium Seedling of the Year 2009 (covering three of the southern States). This later article has been submitted by Carolin Allen from Victoria. Carolin and her husband David (a Past President of the Australian Cymbidium Society) have written extensively for the AOR over many years and have indicated that they intend taking a back seat and reducing their involvement. We thank them for their writings and photos of Cymbidiums that have appeared in this magazine over the past decade, and wish them well in the future.

Again there are a number of articles on species orchids – both Australian and exotic, with most of these also providing valued cultural information. We have many more cultural-based articles in the pipeline for future issues.

The Australian Orchid Foundation is holding a workshop – entitled “A Foundation in Orchids”, to be held on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th May 2010 at the Holmesglen Conference Centre, Corner Warrigal and Batesford Roads, Chadstone Vic. (Melway Map Ref. 69 F1). Developments in plant biology, hybridising, fertilisers, composts, insecticides, growing techniques and propagation are happening fast. Learning of these makes orchid growing one of the most fascinating pursuits in the world. A range of speakers and nurserymen from around Australia will demonstrate the fundamentals of this theme and their application to most genera, with the bonus of plants for sale! Visit the AOF's website for further details www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com



APRIL – MAY 2010
Volume 75 – No. 2

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Cover Shot

Rhynchostylis retusa 'Keith'
is the "Foftail Orchid" from
Southeast Asia.

Read how to grow it in the
article by Keith Harris.

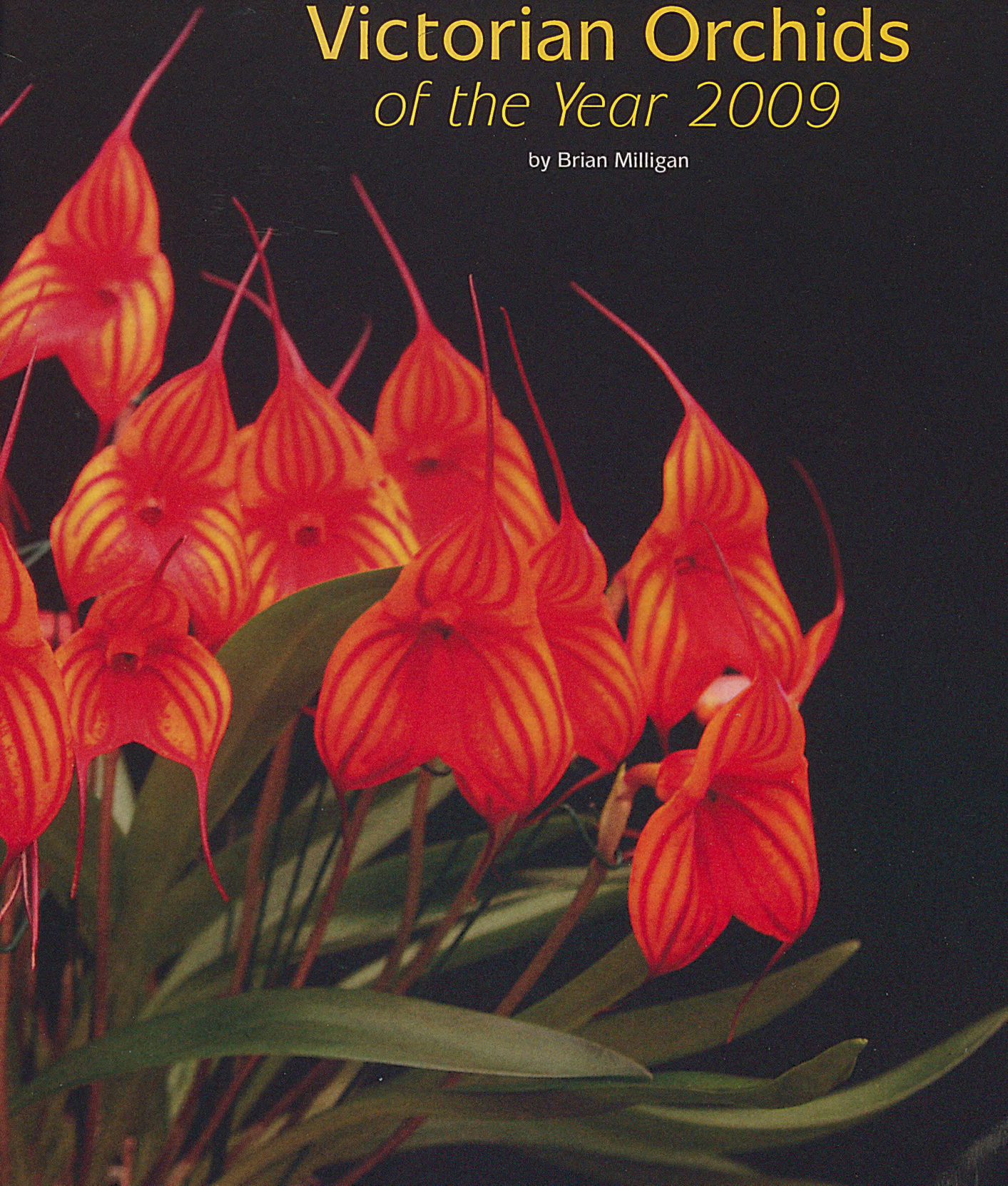
Photo: David Banks.

Masdevallia Veitch's Candy Cane
'Super Striper' AM/OSCOV



Victorian Orchids *of the Year 2009*

by Brian Milligan



The Orchid Societies Council of Victoria (OSCOV) has conducted an annual Victorian Orchids of the Year competition ever since 1992. Photographs of all orchids that have received OSCOV awards in the current year are considered, together with any others submitted by Victorian growers. Success in this competition relies not only on growing an orchid of award quality but also on taking photographs of a similar standard. As a consequence, those orchids with the highest awards do not necessarily win this competition. In 2009 a total of 89 OSCOV awards were granted (9 Awards of Merit, 51 Highly Commended Certificates, 8

Awards of Distinction, 18 Cultural Certificates and 3 Certificates of Botanical Merit). The OSCOV Judging Panel met in February 2010, first to select the winners in the various categories, and then to decide the overall winner. The results of the Judges' adjudications are as follows:

The **Victorian Orchid of the Year for 2009** (sponsored by OSCOV) was *Masdevallia* Veitch's Candy Cane 'Super Striper' AM-AD-CC/OSCOV, grown by Marita Anderson and Chris Waterman of Morwell. This striking orchid was **Victorian Masdevallia Hybrid of the Year** (sponsored by the Warrnambool and District Orchid Society) and also

won the **Victorian Award of Distinction of the Year** (sponsored by Melbourne Western Orchid Society).

Ron and Pauline Coppin of Stawell will receive the OSCOV-sponsored Gunter Haar Memorial Trophy (a large framed photograph of their orchid and an OSCOV silver medallion) for winning the **Victorian Cultural Certificate of the Year** with their spectacular specimen plant of the Australian native hybrid *Dendrobium* Aussie Star 'Sue' HCC-CC/OSCOV. A total of 18 Cultural Certificates were granted during 2009 so the Coppins can be justifiably proud of their achievement. All trophies will be presented at a dinner to be held in

Masdevallia Veitch's Candy Cane 'Super Striper' AM-AD-CC/OSCOV, grown by Marita Anderson and Chris Waterman of Morwell (eastern Victoria) was the Victorian Orchid of the Year for 2009. Photo: M. Anderson





Dendrobium Aussie Star 'Sue'
HCC-CC/OSCOV

Above: Ron and Pauline Coppin of Stawell (western Victoria) were delighted to win the coveted Gunter Haar Memorial Trophy for the Victorian Cultural Certificate of the Year with their specimen plant of the Australian Native Hybrid ***Dendrobium Aussie Star 'Sue'*** HCC-CC/OSCOV. Photo: M. Matthews



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DVD – covers medium preparation and the sowing of a green pod.

FLASKS – Disa, cymbidiums [showbench, potplant, cascading intermediates] Australian Native cymbidiums [species and hybrids], coolgrowing dendrobium seedlings, sarcochilus, Australian terrestrials and some exotics.

PLANTS – Disa, dendrobium kingianum and speciosum and Australian native cymbidium hybrids. Reconditioned autoclaves and laminar flow cabinets.

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Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii 'Magic'
HCC/OSCOV, grown by
David and Le-Anne Brown
of Cranbourne, was
Australian Native
Species of the Year
Photo: D. Brown



conjunction with the OSCOV Show at Springer's Leisure Centre (Keysborough) in August 2010. The winners of all other categories will receive smaller framed photographic prints of their orchids and OSCOV medallions at this dinner.

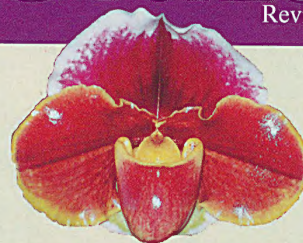
The **Victorian Australian Native Orchid Species of the Year** (sponsored by the Yarra Valley Orchid Society) was *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* 'Magic' HCC/OSCOV, grown by David and Le-Anne Brown of Cranbourne. *Dendrobium Cosmic Gold* 'Sandy' (Avril's Gold x *speciosum*), grown by Henk Van den Berg of Newcastle (NSW) and exhibited at the annual OSCOV show, was **Victorian Australian Native Orchid Hybrid of the Year** (sponsored by the Mornington Peninsula Orchid Society). This is one of the rare cases where the winner of a particular category had not received an OSCOV award, although the judges were unaware of this fact during judging (at the time of judging the nature of any awards and all cultivar names are withheld, so that the judges' decisions are based solely on the merit of the entries as shown by their photographs).

Victorian Paphiopedilum Species of the Year (sponsored by the Stawell Orchid Society) was *Paphiopedilum*

fairrieianum 'Merrigum' AM/OSCOV, grown by John Martin and Andrew Francis of Castle Creek Orchids. **Victorian Paphiopedilum Hybrid of the Year** (sponsored by the Ballarat Orchid Society) was *Paphiopedilum Puffy* 'Bittersweet' HCC/OSCOV, grown by Marilyn and Barry Larkin of Cranbourne South. Kathie Lam and Jean-François Rossi of Hampton Park won the **Victorian Other Species Orchid of the Year** category (sponsored by the Orchid Species Society of Victoria) with *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta* 'Stephanie' HCC/OSCOV. Their win was no fluke, as Kathie and Jean-François won the same category in 2008 with *Cyrtorchis arcuata* 'Lam' CBM/OSCOV, another African species.

Colin and Karen Gillespie of Mount Eliza won both the **Victorian Cymbidium of the Year** (sponsored by the Cymbidium Orchid Society of Victoria) and the **Victorian Seedling of the Year** (sponsored by F. and J. Coker as the Harold and Florence Coker Award) with *Cymbidium Lunar Blaze* 'Lisa' AM/OSCOV. The Gillespies were 'even money' to win the Victorian Cymbidium of the Year category, as they grew five of the ten awarded cymbidiums

Australian Orchid Review



WELCOMES EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure that all slides, photographs
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NSW 2147 AUSTRALIA

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david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

AOR 065



Victorian Australian Native Hybrid of the Year was *Dendrobium Cosmic Gold* 'Sandy' AM/AOC-NSW 2009, grown by Henk van den Berg of Newcastle (NSW)

under consideration! The **Victorian Cattleya of the Year** (sponsored by the Mid-Murray Orchid Club) was *Rhyntonleya* Pink Delight 'Burdekin' HCC/OSCOV, grown by Ron Martin of Kyalla West (*Rhyntonleya* = *Broughtonia* x *Cattleya* x *Rhyncholaelia*).

Clive and Agi Halls of Mount Beenak Orchids once again won the **Victorian Odontoglossum of the Year** category (sponsored by the Bendigo Orchid Club), this time with *Odontioda* Night Train 'Beenak' HCC/OSCOV. **Victorian Any Other Hybrid of the Year** (sponsored by the North-East Melbourne Orchid Society) was *Neopabstopetalum* Beverly Lou 'Starlight' HCC/OSCOV, grown by Anita Evans of Wallington. (*Neopabstopetalum* is an inter-generic hybrid between the natural genera *Neogardneria*, *Pabstia* and *Zygopetalum*).

Although professional growers carried off eight of the major awards in 2008, they won only two in 2009, namely, Victorian Paphiopedilum of the Year (Castle Creek Orchids) and Victorian

Odontoglossum of the Year (Mount Beenak Orchids). Country growers won the categories for Victorian Masdevallia of the Year, Victorian Award of Distinction of the Year, Victorian Cattleya of the Year, Victorian Cultural Certificate of the Year and Victorian Any Other Hybrid of the Year. Amateur growers from the Greater Melbourne area did a little better this year than in the past, winning the categories for Australian Native Species of the Year, Victorian Cymbidium of the Year, Victorian Hybrid Paphiopedilum of the Year, Victorian Any Other Species of the Year and Victorian Seedling of the Year.

It has been another difficult year for Victorian orchid growers, partly because of water restrictions imposed throughout the whole of the state, and also because of the extreme heat experienced last summer (up to 46.4°C in February in Melbourne, the highest temperature ever recorded here). Considerably more awards were granted in 2009 (89) than in 2008 (76), possibly because orchid growers (and

their orchids?) are learning how to cope better with drought and heat!

I thank the OSCOV Awards Secretary (and President), Stephen Early, for providing the photographs used in this article and the AOR for providing the vehicle to publish these awards.

Brian Milligan
Balwyn North, Victoria

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Left: John Martin and Andrew Francis of Castle Creek Orchids won the Victorian Paphiopedilum Species of the Year category with *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* 'Merrigum' AM/OSCOV

Below: The Victorian Paphiopedilum Hybrid of the Year (2009) was *Paphiopedilum Puffy 'Bittersweet'* HCC/OSCOV, grown by Marilyn and Barry Larkin of Cranbourne South
Photo: B. Larkin



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Victorian Other Species Orchid of the Year
was *Aerangis luteoalba* var. *rhodosticta*
'Stephanie' HCC/OSCOV, grown by
Kathy Lam and Jean-François Rossi
Photo: J. Rossi



Aerangis luteoalba var. *rhodosticta*
'Stephanie' HCC/OSCOV



Left: Colin and Karen Gillespie of Mount Eliza won Victorian Cymbidium of the Year with **Cymbidium Lunar Blaze 'Lisa'** AM/OSCOV. The same orchid also beat 12 other entries in the Victorian Seedling of the Year category

Below: Victorian Cattleya of the Year, grown by Ron Martin of Kialla West, was **Rhyntonleya Pink Delight 'Burdekin'** HCC/OSCOV



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Clive and Agi Halls of Mount Beenak Orchids grew the Victorian Odontoglossum of the Year, namely, *Odontioda* Night Train 'Beenak' HCC/OSCOV
Photo: Clive Halls



Neopabstpetalum Beverley Lou 'Starlight' HCC/OSCOV, grown by Anita Evans of Wallington, was Victorian Any Other Hybrid of the Year Photo: M. Matthews

Large Flower - Vic - Cym. (Alexandra's Flame 'Margarita' x
Flaming Vulcan 'Dural') - K & C. Gillespie





Large Flower - SA - Cym. (Wyong Flame x Alexandra's Flame)
- Colin Greig



Large Flower - WA - Cym. (Dr. Stanley Parkinson x Kirby Lesh) = Cym. Darch Hero
- Gillian Marsh

SAGE Cymbidium Seedling of the Year 2009

by Carolin Allen

Almost 15 years ago a group of Cymbidium growers representing the newly formed Australian Cymbidium Society (ACS) took an idea for a Cymbidium seedling competition to the proprietor of a Victorian horticultural company. The company was SAGE horticultural and the person they took their idea to was Bob Campbell. Despite this newly formed society having no track record or history to recommend them Bob took the risk to commit his support and money behind the ACS and their new type of competition.

That competition became THE SAGE CYMBIDIUM SEEDLING OF THE YEAR COMPETITION and in the past 14 years it has introduced almost 300 of the best

cymbidium seedlings grown in Australia to the readers of the *Australian Orchid Review*, both in this country and around the world. Around 95 percent of the new cymbidium hybrids featured in the "SAGE", as it has come to be known, have been produced by Australian hybridisers. The Sage has helped to reinforce the reputation of Australia as a major force in the development of new high quality cymbidiums worldwide. Bob Campbell and his company have continued as sponsors for every one of the SAGE CYMBIDIUM SEEDLING OF THE YEAR COMPETITION for every one of the past fifteen years and the ACS extends its grateful thanks to Bob.

The 2009 Australian Cymbidium

Society AGM and Delegates meetings were held in Western Australia for the first time and with David attending the meetings as a Victorian delegate I also made the trip to Perth. We took the opportunity to catch up with our daughter who has moved to Perth because of her job.

Helen Stretch, the new ACS secretary, kindly opened her house to the delegates for the three days of the ACS meetings, even though she was in the middle of home renovations, thank you Helen for your hospitality. Even the West Australian weather was very kind to us interstaters! It was nice to also catch up with some of our fellow cymbidium growers in WA. If you have not been to

WA you will have your chance this year as they are hosting the National Cymbidium Show 2010. Stay a bit longer and have a look around, you will be very pleasantly surprised.

During the flowering season each state who participates in this photographic competition (Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia) chooses their states best seedling for the year in each category. One of the jobs at this meeting is for the delegates to view all the photographs and then vote on which seedling they think is the best in each of the sections, and then they look at the five section winners to choose the SAGE winner for 2009.

Plants in contention for the 2009 SAGE Cymbidium Seedling of the Year Award were:-

LARGE FLOWER

- Vic - *Cym.* (Alexandra's Flame 'Margarita' x Flaming Vulcan 'Dural') – K & C. Gillespie
- SA - *Cym.* (Wyong Flame x Alexandra's Flame) – Colin Greig
- WA - *Cym.* (Dr. Stanley Parkinson x Kirby Lesh) = *Cym.* Darch Hero – Gillian Marsh

SMALL STANDARD

- Vic - *Cym.* (Lunar Flame 'Cameo' x Blazing Fury 'Ruby') = *Cym.* Lunar Flame – K & C. Gillespie
- SA - *Cym.* (Coraki x Terama) x (Winter Advent x Tracey Reddaway) – Wayne Baylis
- WA - *Cym.* (Margaret Thatcher x Mini Splash) 'Emerald x Tracey Reddaway 'Marie' – Phil Taylor

INTERMEDIATE

- Vic - *Cym.* (Janis Lin x Anna Szabo) – A & J. Leamon
- SA - *Cym.* (Willunga Royal x Regal Fire) – Vic Haskard

- WA - *Cym.* (Kimberley Szabo x Tom Thumb) 'Alex' – Ezi-Gro Orchids

MINIATURE

- Vic - *Cym.* (Paradisian Bullseye x *devonianum*) '#5' – Paradisia Nursery
- SA - *Cym.* (Sarah Jean x Owzat) = *Cym.* Toltrice – M & G. Hall
- WA - *Cym.* (Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' x Owzat) 'Mary Jane' = *Cym.* Toltrice 'Mary Jane' – Nado Lenkic

NOVELTY

- Vic - *Cym.* (Hazel Fay x Wallacia) – Andy Tran
- WA - *Cym.* (Hot 'n' Spicy x Pywacket) = *Cym.* Darch Dots 'Dazzler' – Ezi-Gro Orchids
- SA - No Entry

SECTION WINNERS

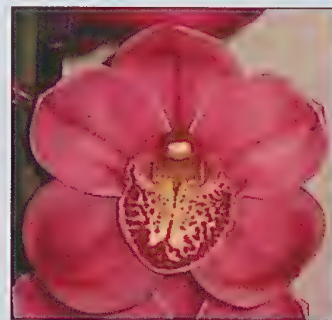
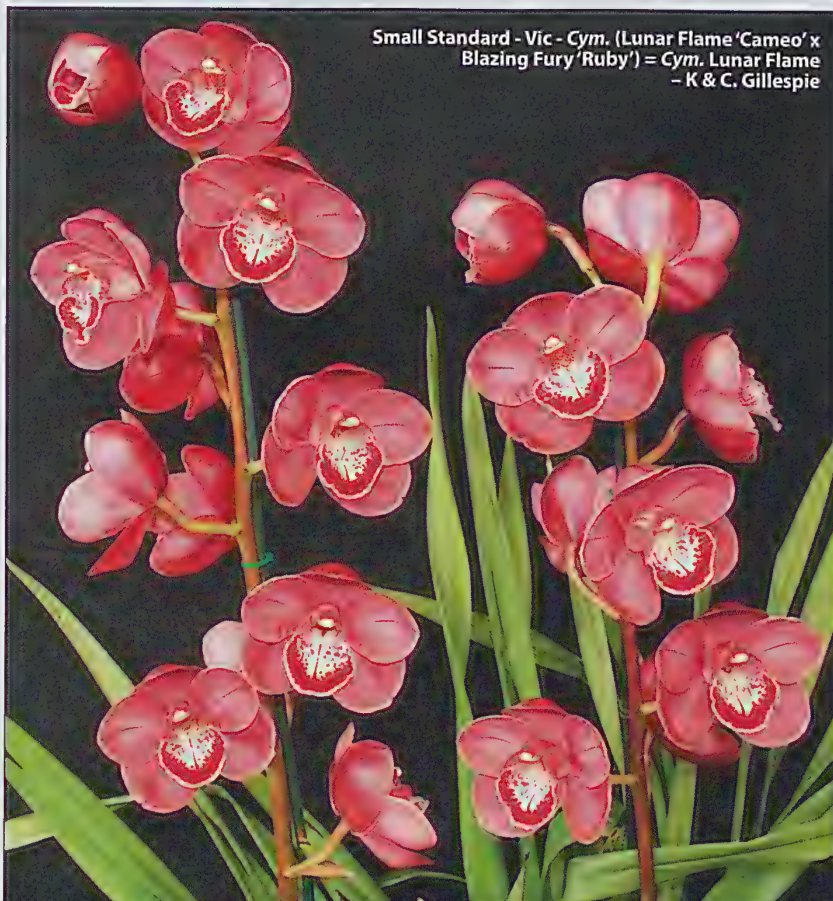
- **Large Flower** - Vic - *Cym.* (Alexandra's Flame 'Margarita' x Flaming Vulcan 'Dural') – K&C. Gillespie
- **Small Standard** - Vic - *Cym.* (Lunar Flame 'Cameo' x Blazing Fury 'Ruby') = *Cym.* Lunar Flame – K&C. Gillespie
- **Intermediate** - Vic - *Cym.* (Janis Lin x Anna Szabo) – A & J Leamon
- **Miniature** - SA - *Cym.* (Sarah Jean x Owzat) = *Cym.* Toltrice – M & G Hall
- **Novelty** - WA - *Cym.* Darch Dots 'Dazzler' – Ezi-Gro Orchids

SAGE WINNER FOR 2009

Cymbidium (Janis Lin x Anna Szabo) grown and owned by Jan and Andy Leamon of Victoria.

Carolyn Allen

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Small Standard - SA - *Cym.* (Coraki x Terama) x (Winter Advent x Tracey Reddaway) – Wayne Baylis

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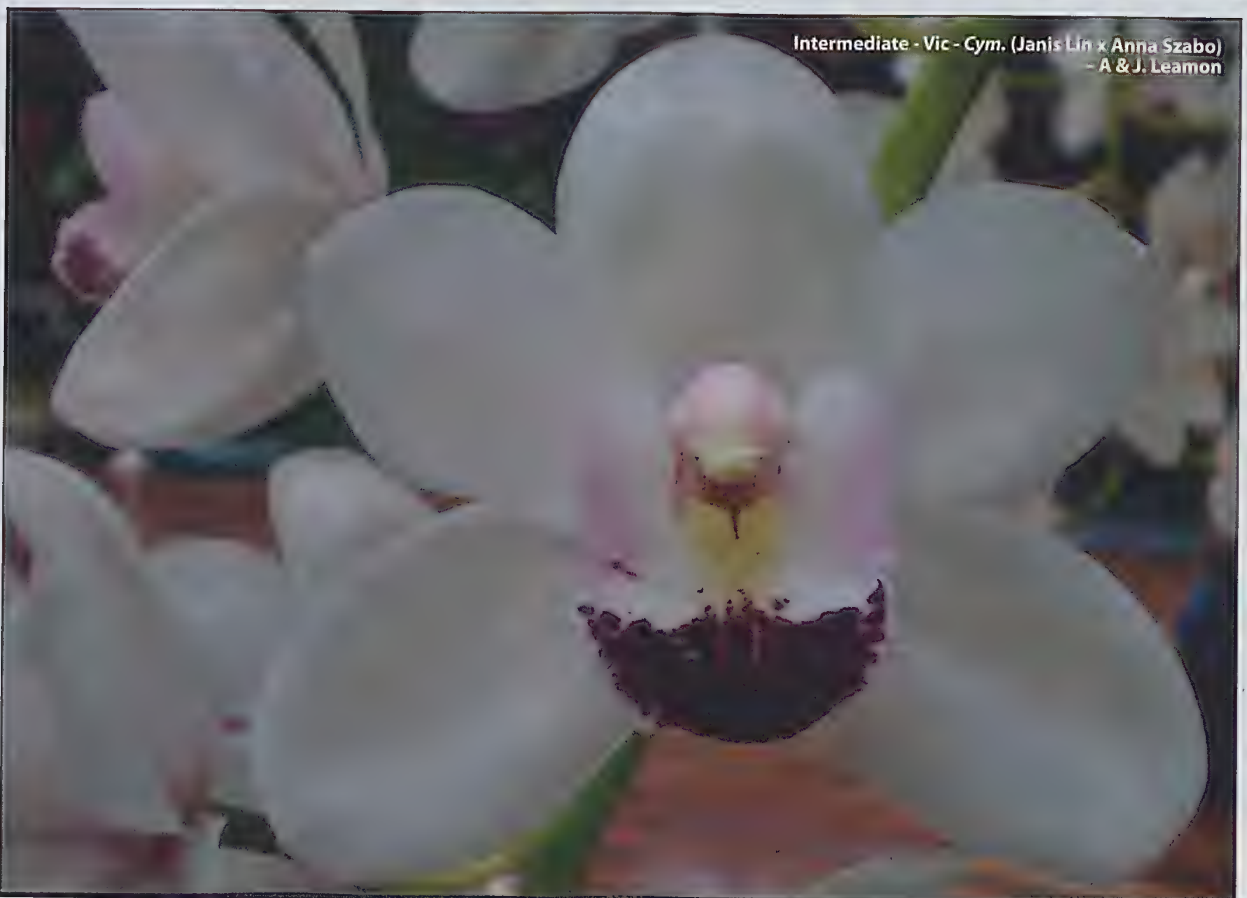
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Small Standard - WA - Cym. (Margaret Thatcher x Mini Splash)
'Emerald x Tracey Reddaway 'Marie' - Phil Taylor



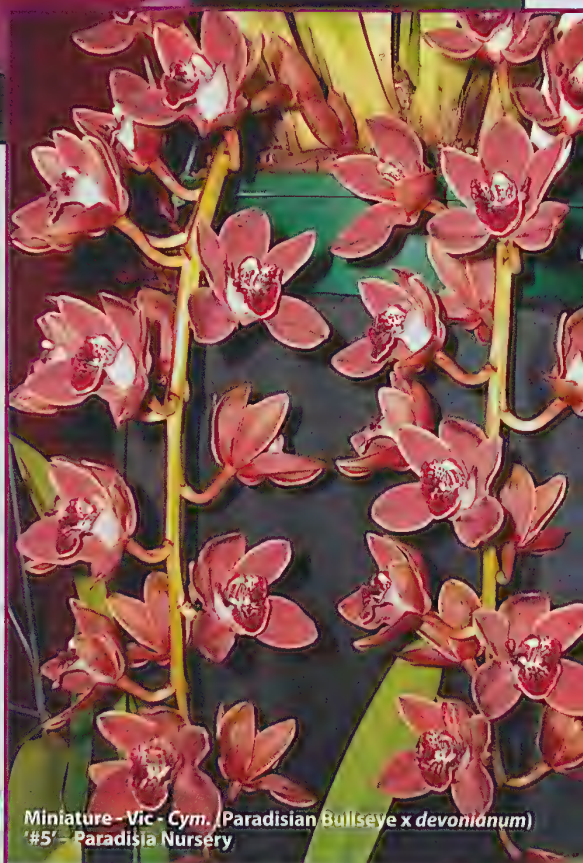
Intermediate - Vic - Cym. (Janis Lin x Anna Szabo)
- A & J. Leamon



Intermediate - SA - Cym. (Willunga Royal x Regal Fire)
- Vic Haskard



Intermediate - WA - Cym. (Kimberley Szabo x Tom Thumb)
'Alex' - Ezi-Gro Orchids



Miniature - Vic - Cym. (Paradisian Bullseye x devonianum)
#5' - Paradisia Nursery



Miniature - SA - Cym. (Sarah Jean x Owzat) = Cym. Toltrice
- M & G. Hall



Miniature - WA - Cym. (Sarah Jean 'Ice Cascade' x Owzat)
Mary Jane' = Cym. Toltrice 'Mary Jane' - Nado Lenkic

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Novelty - Vic - Cym. (Hazel Fay x Wallacia)
- Andy Tran



Novelty - WA - Cym. (Hot n' Spicy x Pywacket) = Cym. Darch Dots 'Dazzler' - Ezi-Gro Orchids

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Ansellia africana (various clones – photo by Lourens Grobler)

Ansellia africana: Africa's "speciosum"

by Murray Shergold

Ansellia africana is widely regarded as the only species in this genus, with both *A. gigantea* and *A. nilotica* considered synonyms. It exhibits huge variation in both plant size & flower size, shape and colour pigmentation. Plants usually grow as epiphytes in the canopy of big trees, enjoying bright light, with massive older plants reaching up to one tonne in weight. At times pieces fall to the ground and unlike many other orchids that then die, Ansellias often re-establish when leaf mould or rocks abound and continue to grow as either terrestrials or epiphytes. This is evidence of their incredible toughness. They are also found in rocks in grassland. In nature they can be found from Sudan to South Africa & west to Sierra Leone - an area larger than the continent of Australia.

Like some forms of our native *Dendrobium speciosum*, Ansellias produce numerous needle like roots that grow upwards to catch leaf litter. They are sympodial in growth & the pseudobulbs resemble canes & can grow to +1m long on large specimen plants. Flowers are produced from recent pseudobulbs and may emerge from the top or the middle of the pseudobulb. Flowering season is from late winter to early summer in most varieties.

The individual flowers last well and are pleasantly fragrant. The common name is "Leopard Orchid" on account of the generally dark spotted blooms. Native people have a variety of uses for Ansellias including a "tea" which is used as an emetic (causing a person to vomit) and also as an aphrodisiac (I think we all know what that means!).

Cultivation

This is not a species for the windowsill! They will grow potted or mounted & prefer relatively high light. A good free draining mix is preferred and we have had success with coconut husk chips, perlite, chopped sphagnum etc which we have found ideal.

In most frost-free areas of Australia, *Ansellia africana* will establish well in a tree. I have seen them growing in Pretoria in trees where February brings +40 deg & every 3-4 years light snow falls on them. Likewise I have seen them in Gabon, which is seriously equatorial & so hot it makes Singapore seem temperate. So the temperatures the plants will endure will vary from clone to clone, depending on their original conditions and altitude.

Good ventilation is important and we suggest that you back off watering in early autumn to allow new growths to mature and harden off without damping off. Then resume solid watering after new growths have matured.

Breeding

Ansellia africana is related to *Cymbidiums* & accordingly the following intergeneric crosses have been registered:

- *Ansidium* (*Ansellia* x *Cymbidium*) including *Cymbidium madidum* x *Ansellia africana* which was registered as *Ansidium Pasatiempo*
- *Anaphorchis* (*Graphorkis* x *Ansellia*)
- *Catasellia* (*Catasetum* x *Ansellia*)
- *Cycsellia* (*Cynoches* x *Ansellia*)
- *Cyrtellia* (*Cyrtopodium* x *Ansellia*)
- *Eulosellia* (*Eulophia* x *Ansellia*)

- *Galeansellia* (*Galeandra* x *Ansellia*)
- *Mormosellia* (*Mormodes* x *Ansellia*)
- *Promellia* (*Promenaea* x *Ansellia*)

These are very scarce intergeneric hybrids in cultivation, and are interesting as that they feature (obviously related) genera from the Africas, Asia and South America.

Propagation

From division of larger plants in late spring to early summer. Seed pods take 12-15 months to mature but in nature relatively few are produced.

Line Bred Varieties

With the various varieties flowering in a range as shown above the possibilities are almost endless but never the less attractive whatever the colour. The pure & near pure yellow forms are usually those that have extreme cold tolerance & often emanate from KwaZulu-Natal (Zululand) & Zimbabwe. The famous clone 'Caprivi' grows shorter, carries more flowers & the flowers are slightly smaller. Those from Kenya are generally very big growers & have the darkest flowers.

Duckitt Nurseries have line bred Ansellias in South Africa for decades and when we last visited they had an inventory of some 32,000 flowering size plants. Because they are so tough, so pretty, so fragrant and are physically large enough to have a presence they have a place in almost every orchid collection. We hope that many more are seen on showbenches around Australia in the years to come and that the line bred specimens we have sold around Australia are used for further



Ansellia africana 'Caprivi' – demonstrating both terminal and lateral flowering



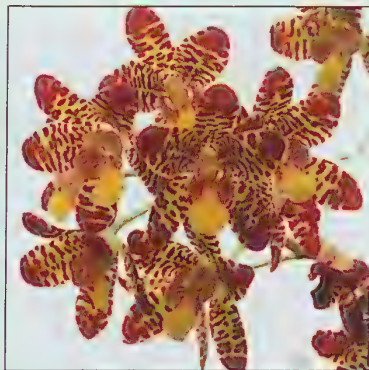
Ansellia africana 'Moatane' – clear yellow albinistic clone from KwaZulu Natal



Ansellia africana 'Champagne' – one of the larger flowered "gigantea" styles from Zimbabwe



Ansellia africana 'Melich' – large flowered spotted type, also known as 'A10'



Ansellia africana 'Mont Millais' – fabulous markings and a prolific bloomer



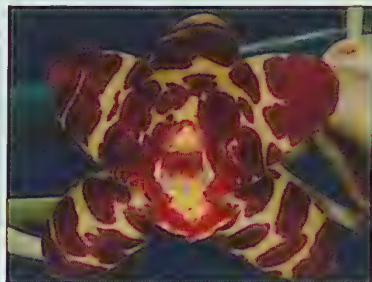
Ansellia africana 'Mercury' – great shape and sharp contrasting colour



Ansellia africana 'Darling Lips' – heaps of colour with a red-edged labellum



Ansellia africana 'Richard W Duckitt' – one of the "black" forms with bright yellow labellum



Ansellia africana 'Wilferd's Rescue' – flower reminiscent of *Promenaea stapelioides*!



Ansellia africana 'Wilferd Duckitt' – green backed flowers with dark pigmentation on the inside

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improvement. We envisage a time where people here will devote bench space to numerous examples of this fine orchid in much the same way as collections featuring our own *Dendrobium speciosum* or the Mexican *Laelia anceps*.

At Easy Orchids we have been fortunate to obtain a large selection from Duckitt Nurseries that were released in late February 2010. The range is reduced now but there are many available with one or more parents being pictured in this article. All photos taken by Wilferd Duckitt (from Duckitt Nurseries), except for the two "group" shots – featuring numerous clones to show part of the floral variation, which were taken by Lourens Grobler.

Murray Shergold
Easy Orchids
Woodburn NSW
www.easyorchids.com



Rhynchostylis retusa
'Keith'

Growing the “Foxtail Orchid” – *Rhynchostylis retusa*

by Keith Harris

My wife and I started growing orchids some 35 years ago as rank novices. We became quite confused with the amount and range of varieties of orchids available to purchase and bought with it all the different conditions required to grow them successfully.

With this in mind, we used to regularly visit the late Jack Bissett’s nursery, then located at Five Dock and spent quite a few hours browsing through the many orchids he had available for sale. On one occasion, we asked Jack – who was a delightful, helpful and patient man –

could he recommend an orchid that novices could grow that was somewhat different from the run-of-the-mill varieties. He asked if we had heard of a “Foxtail Orchid”... to which we replied “No”! He proceeded to explain that it was a beautiful Asian species having

Right: View of glasshouse, note spacing of plants and fans for air circulation



Right: Keith Harris with one of his prized specimens

long pendulous spikes with hundreds of small mauve and white sparkling flowers and was very eye-catching. Only catch was this plant needed a heated glasshouse in the winter here in Sydney.

We purchased a small plant of this interesting sounding orchid that Jack selected for us, and after six years, and a bit more knowledge on growing orchids, succeeded in producing one small flower spike, but what a pleasing result to see exactly what we had been promised.

This monopodial orchid turned out to be *Rhynchostylis retusa*, a widespread Vandaceous species throughout South-east Asia, and a very promising clone at that. After more years growing and

more experience (and a better glasshouse) the plant has grown quite large and produced two more sidegrowths (kiekies) which I removed and potted on. The last flowering produced three inflorescences with up to 200, 20mm flowers on board, whilst the other two plants both had a couple of flower spikes. One of these recently won Plant of the Night at the Parramatta & District Orchid Society (www.parramattaorchidsociety.org).

The growing conditions I have now ensure the temperature never gets below 10°C in winter. The plants receive plenty of air movement with a minimum of 60% humidity. The potting mix I now

use is 4 parts OrchidMate Coconut Chips and 1 part perlite. Watering is as required: usually twice a week and fertilising once a week at medium strength.

This is a species orchid well worth tracking down and growing. I would imagine this species would grow without the need of a heated glasshouse north of Coffs Harbour. Look out for plants or seedlings at the various orchid fairs around the country. For us, this orchid is a joy to grow and flower, and blooms just into the New Year annually after reaching maturity.

Keith Harris, NSW



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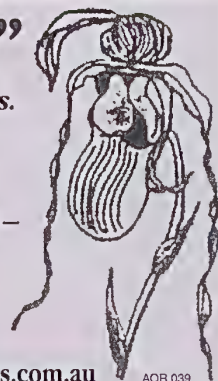
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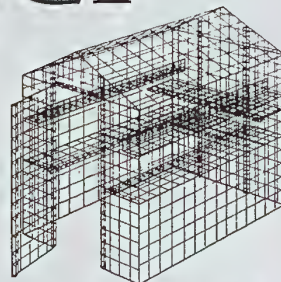
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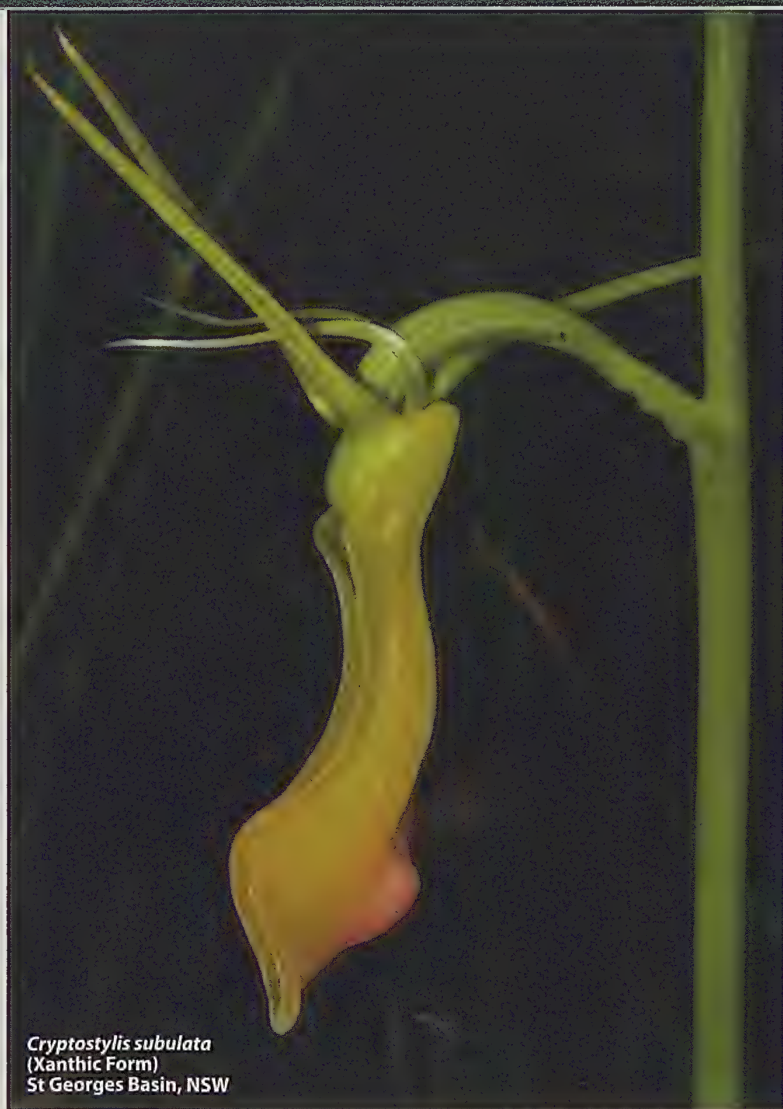
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Cryptostylis subulata
(Xanthic Form)
St Georges Basin, NSW



Cryptostylis subulata
(Xanthic Form)
St Georges Basin, NSW
– labellum detail



Cryptostylis subulata
(Xanthic Form)
St Georges Basin, NSW

Unusual Colour Form of *Cryptostylis subulata* and other Surprises!

Text and photos by Alan Stephenson

For many years I have repeatedly said I am never surprised where orchids choose to grow and this is more relative to terrestrial orchids than epiphytes or lithophytes. This has proved to be true and I have often been confronted by finding something in an unusual location. Following this reasoning I have been fortunate to find different forms of several species, which in the main have been Alba forms, however this time the discovery was unexpected.

I was doing a favour (love job) for a friend for whom I occasionally do paid work. He is a reptile expert who does environmental assessment work and I occasionally undertake the orchid survey section of the job if one is required. On December 20th 2009 while doing the favour of looking at two blocks 100 mts x 200 mts each and looking for the wasp pollinated *Cryptostylis hunteriana* I saw two plants of the locally common “Cow Orchid” *Cryptostylis*

subulata. Both plants were identical in height and carried one open flower and three buds but these did not display the usual red labellum as these were a yellow/lime colour with the projecting callus a soft pink. These plants were so alike they could have been clones. The correct identification of the colour form was made by Gary Backhouse and it is known as the Xanthic form.



Cryptostylis subulata
Wentworth Falls, NSW
(Typical colour form)
- photo D.P. Banks



Bells Goanna
- *Varanus varius*

Right: Tiger Snake - *Notechis scutatus*

A second surprise awaited me just three days later along a section of track I travel quite frequently. This track is in a nearby national park and I went there to check a population of *Cryptostylis leptochila* and also *C. hunteriana* as this track supports all four species of *Cryptostylis* available in the eastern states. Unfortunately due to the lack of rain in 2009 neither population produced a flower but at the *C. leptochila* site while walking between the two populations, a monitor lizard ran across the track and climbed a tree. The colour of this reptile was different to anything I had previously seen so I decided a photo was in order. As I walked round the base of the tree the monitor was climbing in a spiral away from me but stopped about five metres above ground level. Its marking consisted of charcoal and fawn horizontal bands from head to tail and was approximately 1.3 metres long with the tail much longer than the body. So well camouflaged again the trunk of the gum tree, as you can see in the photograph.

My reptile expert identified the animal as *Varanus varius* 'Bells Form' and informed me it would normally be found in the dryer Pilliga Scrub in the north west of NSW or along the Murray River in an equally dry habitat. I was then urged to lodge the find with the NSW Wildlife Atlas as this was the only specimen of its type to be found in the Shoalhaven area. We came upon a tiger snake in the same area.

The orchid was located 20 minutes south of my home and the monitor was 25 minutes west but unfortunately the possibility of the orchid surviving is poor as the land is undergoing the mandatory assessment prior to a development approval being granted and due to the size of the land and the necessary requirement for bushfire protection it will most likely be under 150 mm of concrete by the end of 2010. Subsequent visits to the site to relocate the orchid proved unsuccessful and I can only assume it was fodder to the local Kangaroo population.

Alan W Stephenson
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Cymbidium Khanebono 'Jacinta'
AM/AOC-NSW 2009
(Grower: George Serhan,
Photo: D.P. Banks)



Why Awards?

(Part 2)

by Gordon Giles

Almost a year ago I asked a question in this publication: "Why are orchids awarded?" Now as I indicated at that time I had asked the same question some 23 years before. There was no answer then, but the question was asked of a judging panel, who although they did not know the answer, they did not have to advise the orchid growing community of the fact.

I honestly thought that when the matter was made public, there would be a number of judges defending and explaining the reasons and meanings behind what are apparently momentous decisions. Does this mean that these quite interesting decisions have no meaning? Now I should state here that I have no problem with the granting of recognition to an outstanding or high quality plant.

Many years ago the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) granted an FCC (First Class Certificate) to a special cultivar of the Shasta Daisy: *Chrysanthemum maximum* 'Esther Read'. This was the first double Shasta and was thus worthy of such recognition. With Roses there is the AARS, All American Rose Selection. This is controlled by the All American Rose Society. Plants are sent to about 12 different states and tested for disease resistance, flower quality, growth buds, particularly for the fact that they are new, distinct or novel. They are tested for two years before a decision is made. A similar

system exists in Australia. Here for a cost of \$250.00 plants under a number are sent to South Australia where again for two years they are tested. There are various classes such as Hybrid Tea,

At one stage when the export of hybrid *Cymbidium* flowers was at its peak, the Exporters Association decided it would like to have export awards granted that would mean something. A

meeting was held at the home of Alvin Bryant, with the export growers and judges in attendance. I was there. It was quickly decided that for an award to be granted, a plant would have to meet the following standards: The flower had to be the right colour, and the spike had to be suitable. These aspects were obviously easy to agree on. However, it was unanimously decided that the plant had to grow and flower freely. Now to judge this it was necessary for an independent person or group to grow the plant under trial. The problem was nobody trusted anybody and the whole project lapsed!

Now from the above I think we can conclude that the people responsible for these awards are not interested in anything other than that the new owner of the plant knows they will be getting a good thing. The reason I raise this whole matter again is some panels are handing out these "awards" (or rewards!) like "how to vote" literature on polling day. Admittedly a large proportion is going to

fellow judges, so maybe it is just a way of the judges patting one another on the back!

I have a great sympathy for new, learner and associate judges, whose



Above: *Cymbidium* Jess Khan 'Valerie' AM/CCA 2009 This plant was Champion Seedling of the Year 2009 for the Cymbidium Club of Australia, and bred by Gordon Giles of Keith Wallace Pty Ltd from the cross between Jessie Blakiston and Red Khan (Grower: Norm & Val Shipway, Photo: D.P. Banks)

Climber, Floribunda etc. After testing, if appropriate, they are granted Gold, Silver or Bronze or nothing. There are rules that are followed and everyone understands.

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Above: *Paphiopedilum hangianum* (Grower: Gordon Giles, Photo: G.S. Banks)

abilities are apparently decided by their skill in putting a correct number of points on flowers that are deemed suitable to judge for an award. When nobody seems to know why awards are even part of the Orchid growing scene, it does not make it easy to prove your worth by this method. A judge's duty is really to choose the best flower that is exhibited on a particular day. In every other form of horticulture the best exhibit is the one that is closest to the standard of perfection as understood for that particular genus. The award judging of orchids is different.

I suppose at this stage some people may ask; do I know what I am talking about? What gives me the right to ask questions? Well my history is as follows: I am and have been a professional Nurseryman for 60 years, and an Orchid Judge for 50 years. I was a judge on the Sydney Morning Herald Garden competition when it was running. I have judged Horticulture for the RAS and have bred orchids for 56 years, and I have enjoyed success in each field. It is during the decision making time for making an orchid hybrid that one really analyses a flower. I believe all of the above give me the right to ask questions.

Now there are many strange decisions made during this awarding process. Take for instance the *Cymbidium* Khanebono 'Jacinta' that has featured in the AOR a

few times over the past couple of years. The owner was told at the first judging when it was granted an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) that, had it not been for a few small marks on the flowers the plant would have received an AM (Award of Merit) but that he should accept the lower award in case it was not so good next time. Now this does not make sense, either the plant is fit to judge or is not. You would have thought that the senior judge in charge of the judging would have known this obvious fact. And what does this make the award, if not a prize, because that was how it was judged. The owner told me that on the next flowering the blooms were not quite as good (photographic records), but it was granted an AM. You tell me! A complete lack of consistency.

Maybe a look at the history of the award system will make an answer easier to find. My father (the late Leo Giles) and a number of other judges were responsible for the introduction of "the award system". I was a young and interested observer. The idea was taken from the RHS and had several objectives. Firstly it added prestige to orchid growing, it helped people look for better quality plants, and added to the value of the plant so honoured. Orchids at the time were very valuable and anything that added to their value was welcomed.



Paphiopedilum armeniacum
(Grower: Keith Goodwin, New Zealand,
Photo: D.P. Banks)

Originally there were not a great variety of plants being shown, the judges knew most of them, and thus knew when something better was exhibited. Generally each award was an improvement for that style of flower. There were a few what were called "personality awards", these were granted to prominent growers who helped the Orchid Society but were not having much luck with quality. Next the point system was introduced, but was quickly found to be faulty as points were granted to each aspect of the flower. So a lot of flowers, good spike habit, and large size could sneak an award even if the shape was not so good. To overcome this, a certain percentage of points had to be gained for colour and shape before an award was granted. For a while there was a discussion held before the judging

took place. This was in a separate room, thus allowing freedom of discussion. Then it was decided that one party could speak for and one against the award. This was quickly dropped for as soon as the faults were pointed out, nearly always there was no award granted.

Somewhere along the way some people started to push for benchmark awards. This was interesting as plants were judged and no one had any idea whether they were good or bad, only that they were new to horticulture or were different in some way. For instance when *Paphiopedilum armeniacum* was first exhibited, it was instantly granted an AM in spite of the panel being told by people who had seen this flower overseas, that it was an inferior clone. As soon as more were exhibited this was proved to be the case.

When I exhibited *Paphiopedilum hangianum* the panel wanted to grant it an award – *not on, I am not a hypocrite*, even though it was the first one that anyone on the panel had seen. Is it a good one? I have absolutely no idea as there has never been a photographic record available for any future judging of plants of the same genus or species as the one being awarded. These benchmark awards, what is this all about?

You also have the old (registered in 1901) primary hybrid *Paphiopedilum Saint Swithin* (*philippinense* x *rothschildianum*) that has been granted awards for 100 years. Flowered well they are all magnificent, *but why awards?*

I know I have raised this question before, but it still has **not** been answered, so here goes again. If judges cannot

judge the Champion of Show without bringing the contenders together, even though they are all in the same room, how can these same people say that a particular plant is better or otherwise than the one that was awarded 12 months ago? This is pure nonsense.

During the flowering season I talk to quite a number of growers who visit our nursery. The general consensus of opinion is that there are judges who are on an ego trip, and are quite out of touch with the latest trends and the average hobbyist grower – with a number who do not appear to grow orchids themselves. I think this is a pity, and it should not be that way.

I am sure there is some judge who is prepared to answer the question, **WHY AWARDS?** They will earn the respect of hobbyists, will raise the level of respect in which judges are held, and put to rest the idea that awards are a judge's thing which the lay person does not need to know about.

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Dendrobium (Jayden x *speciosum*
subsp. *curvicaule*)

ANOS (Queensland) Kabi Group Inc. *Spring Show 2009*

by Eddie Boudette

Another great Spring Show for the 7th Open Australasian Native Orchid Show which took place during the weekend of 22-23 August 2009 – our best effort so far! It was difficult for the Show Marshall to find space on the benches to accommodate so many flowering plants. The Judges also had their work cut out for them trying to pick the winners. All growers agreed that this year has been a very good growing and flowering season with

many plants that have never flowered before doing so this year in profusion. As per the benching sheets there were 199 plants benched overall by 26 growers.

- **Champion Hybrid** was *Dendrobium* (Jayden 'White' x *speciosum* subsp. *curvicaule* 'Apricot Surprise')
- **Champion Specimen** was *Dendrobium speciosum* 'Samford Moon'
- **Champion Species** was *Dendrobium speciosum* subsp. *curvicaule*

All three plants were owned by Ross & Rhonda Harvey of Cedarvale Orchids.

It is very encouraging to see an increasing number of plants benched by other orchid society members which proves we are pushing our promotion further into the community. A large number of plants were brought to the Show by Athol Rosenberg for members of the ever-supportive Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba. Thanks go to a number of our own members who



Dendrobium speciosum
subsp. *curvicaule*

sponsored the schedule this year. The Society's appreciation has been acknowledged to all sponsors.

We had 746 people through the door during the weekend – a record number. This number included 4 bus groups who visited our Show on Saturday morning and kept the catering department more

than busy. Plant sales were brisk on both Saturday and Sunday with patrons enjoying the availability of various flowering plants from the 2 plant vendors. The orchid book and accessories vendors have expressed their delight with their results for the weekend.

My thanks must go to all members

who supported us during set-up on Friday night and during the weekend. Especially the stalwart members who manned the kitchen – this excellent service was very popular with the bus groups who attended - Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba, ANOS Gold Coast, Hervey Bay and Ballina Orchid



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Dendrobium speciosum
'Samford Moon'

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Societies. A total of 123 people came through the door from these bus groups. They were all provided with a free morning tea.

We believe that the timing was perfect for our Spring Show this year as the burst of hot weather after the Show has caused most of the flowers to collapse. Consequently the Lions Hall has been booked for the same weekend in August 2010 which will be one week before the 6th Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show proudly hosted by the ANOS Newcastle Group. Should you wish to register for this Conference contact details are – by email peterden52@bigpond.com or telephone Greg Hannah 0411340570.

Eddie Boudette
ANOS (Qld) Kabi Group Inc.
Email: edboudette@aapt.net.au

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Laeliocattleya Mary Elizabeth Bohn 'Royal Flare'
AM/AOS is an awarded cluster "blue cattleya" being a cross between *Lc. Blue Boy* and the species *Cattleya bowringiana*. Orchids with these unique bluish tones are very rare and highly sought after. The colour also appears to subtly change depending on the intensity of natural or artificial light, giving the flower many interesting moods
Plant: Tinonee Orchids, Photo: David Banks



Dendrobium speciosum subsp.
curvicaule Grand Champion and
Champion Native Species. NOSTI 2008
Grower: Craig Ritchie

Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba Inc.

by Athol Rosenberg

Queensland's Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba Inc. (NOSTI), once again staged their magnificent Spring Show with the kind assistance of the Milne Bay Military Museum Management, at the corner of Anzac Avenue & O'Quinn Street, Toowoomba in September.

After months of planning, the venue came to life, firstly the carefully planned positions of the benches and props, then the array of species and hybrids, that filled the benches to perfection. The aroma of the native orchids, was noticeably evident, that attracted many visitors from near and far, to see the judged show by a panel of ANOS Judges. The Grand Champion and Champion Native Species, was awarded to *Dendrobium speciosum* subsp. *curvicaule*, exhibiting a lovely array of blooms, owned by Craig Ritchie. Craig also won the Reserve Champion and Champion Native Hybrid with *Dendrobium* Gulginni. The Champion Native Specimen was awarded to the natural hybrid *Dendrobium x gracillimum*, grown by Trevor & Joan Liesegang. Champion Seedling was awarded to *Den.* (Lustrous x Aussie Quest 'Samson'), which was owned by Nev. Rosenberger, (President of NOSTI.) and Josie Wright (Secretary of NOSTI.). While the Pre-eminent Entry was awarded to *Den.* Penny Ann

owned by Athol Rosenberg.

NOSTI is fortunate to have the support of many in the Native Orchid growing community. 2008 was the 40th Anniversary year, with an Anniversary Dinner held in July, followed by the Anniversary Spring Show, in the Milne Bay Military Museum Hall. The celebrations continued until the Sarcophilus Festival in October. Many visitors from local and interstate attended these impressive shows.

We welcome visitors to our monthly meetings on the first Friday of the month, (except January) in the Lutheran Church Hall, Cnr. West & Alderlay Sts. Toowoomba. The club also convenes a Species Appreciation Group meeting, at the same venue, on the 4th Sunday afternoon each month commencing around 2.30 p.m. A mixed display of native and exotic species orchids are brought in for display and discussion. Further details on NOSTI and its shows and activities can be obtained by contacting Athol Rosenberg, 161 Stephen Street, Toowoomba Qld. 4350.

Athol Rosenberg
Toowoomba, Qld
Email: athnan@iprimus.com.au



Above: *Ipsea speciosa* is the "Daffodil Orchid" from Sri Lanka and Southern India which is unknown in cultivation outside its natural habitat. This illustration by Walter Hood Fitch is reproduced from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, Volume 94 (1868)

Taxonomy Jargon

by Eric Christenson

Few scientific disciplines have mastered the art of compression as elegantly as standard plant taxonomy. Remarkable amounts of information can be conveyed in an equally remarkable small space. This is done by a combination of specialised terms and abbreviations, the latter usually in Latin.

Taxonomists study **taxa** (taxon = singular; taxa = plural). A **taxon** is a unit of classification and can refer to any hierarchical level. Thus the genus *Vanda* is a taxon, *Vanda coerulea* is a taxon, and the Orchidaceae is a taxon. The synonym of taxonomy is systematics, referring to systems of classification. They are fully synonymous terms although some authors try to make distinctions that simply are not there.

Nomenclature, or the science of applying names, relies on what are called nomenclatural types. In essence, where the type goes so goes the name. There is a specialised manual for all of this, the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (ICBN), with parallel Codes for cultivated plants and animals. The primary thing to remember when discussing types is that they only refer to names and types in no way are meant to be typical for the taxon in question. They are simply the first to be designated under a given name and their only role is the correct application of names.

A genus, subgenus or section has a **type species**. This is usually the first species described in a genus or one designated by the author for a subgenus or section. For example, when Loureiro described *Aerides* in 1790, he only described *A. odorata*. Thus, *A. odorata* is *de facto* the type species for *Aerides*. So, when Garay and Sweet decided to separate *A. japonica* from other species of *Aerides*, they published a new genus for it, *Sedirea* (*Aerides* spelled backwards). This is because the name *Aerides* goes wherever *A. odorata* goes.

As a sidenote, the feminine ending of the specific epithet (*odorata*) also established the gender of the genus and many later authors erred by treating *Aerides* as neuter and thus the incorrect *A. "odoratum"*. Readers may have noticed all the ending changes when species are moved from *Epidendrum* to *Encyclia* (e.g., *Epi. tampense* vs. *Enc. tampensis*). This is

due to the two genera having different genders.

There are often problems with the type species for older names. When an author did not designate a type species and described or initially included more than one species in the group, a type must be secondarily designated. This is called a **lectotype**. In general, a subsequent author chooses a lectotype that either fits the original description better than other available species (i.e., the species the original author was probably focusing on when he or she described the genus) or that will maintain the genus in its established usage. Thus Linnaeus initially described a number of unrelated species in his all encompassing *Epidendrum*. As his species of *Epidendrum* were redistributed in *Cymbidium*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis*, and other genera, the concept of *Epidendrum* became narrowed to a group of neotropical species. So, *Epidendrum ciliare* was designated as the lectotype species (technically it is a conserved name, best thought of as a lectotype by committee), a decision which maintains the genus in its established usage.

While a species defines a genus, species are defined by a physical reality – usually a herbarium specimen but sometimes also by drawings and other referenced materials. These are called **type specimens**. In general, only four kinds of type specimens are encountered in day-to-day botany. The most important such specimen is the **holotype**. This is literally the single specimen that carries the species name, literally the specimen the botanist used to base his species concept. These are absolutely the most critical vouchers for nomenclature. When a taxonomist has studied all the material of a given species, he or she literally looks for the type specimens in the stack of specimens and, using the Code, decides the earliest available (i.e., correct) name.

Field botanists try to collect duplicate sets of specimens, although commonly this is not as easy in orchids as in other plant families because of sparse population densities in orchids. These duplicate specimens are distributed by the parent institution to specialists in the group and other herbaria with interest

in the family or geographic region. When such a collection is described as a new species, the duplicate specimens are called **isotypes**. These effectively have the same significance as the holotype unless there is a problem, such as having two closely related species accidentally mixed together.

Unfortunately, given the vagaries of history, holotypes have been destroyed. Most notably, the herbaria (herbarium, singular; herbaria, plural) in Berlin and Manila were destroyed toward the end of the Second World War, including many orchid holotypes. Just as with type species for a genus, a **lectotype** must be selected for a species when there is no holotype. So with most of the holotypes of species described by Rudolf Schlechter in Berlin destroyed, for example, lectotypes must be selected to "nail down" the precise application of names. A lectotype is original material, also called authentic material, that was or at least could have been seen by the original author. In most cases a lectotype is an isotype of the original collection. Thus if a hypothetical *Smith* 1203 holotype was at Berlin, the *Smith* 1203 isotype at the Smithsonian Institution might be designated the lectotype. When this is done any other isotype becomes an **isolectotype**, such as a specimen of *Smith* 1203 that might be at the British Museum. Designating a lectotype is not something to be done casually since it affects all future use of that name, and any available specimens are usually carefully compared to the **protologue** (the original description and

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accompanying text and illustrations). Designating lectotypes is an ongoing, rather tedious, rather rarefied process.

In the case of a problem, say if our *Smith* 1203 is the holotype of species "A" in one institution, possibly the duplicate of *Smith* 1203 at a different institution – the isotype – might actually be species "B". This is mostly significant in older material where the importance of careful numbering and labelling specimens wasn't realised at the time. In neotropical orchids, for example, this would include specimens collected by Pavón in the early 19th century, a situation that led to the flip-flop of *Lycaste gigantea* to *Maxillaria longipetala* and then back to *Lycaste* (= *Ida*) *gigantea*. In that case, supposed type specimens in different herbaria did not agree with each other and, more critically, with the original, unpublished illustration. Because of this possible pitfall, general curation often leads type specimens to be labelled "isotype by number" meaning the label agrees with the protologue but the non-specialist annotating the specimen wants to take a noncommittal stance, leaving it again to future students.

It is the nature of cultivated plants

that in many cases the holotype was either never prepared or there was only one specimen prepared from horticulture. Significant authors such as Klotzsch, who described *Cynoches chlorochilon*, for example, apparently rarely preserved material. In some cases he sent fragments to Reichenbach for communication and those fragments conserved in Vienna can be designated as lectotypes. In other cases there may be original illustrations that can serve as lectotype. When no original material exists, a botanist can designate a **neotype**. A neotype is a specimen that postdates the original author. After careful study a botanist can link the original description and available information to a modern collection, again to "nail down" the use of a name. This is the preferred approach today although in the past authors would just as likely cite the name followed by **ex char.**, for *ex character*, meaning the author only knows this concept from the original description and no actual specimen.

When taxonomists publish a new genus or species, they alert the reader to the significance of the text. Following

the new name they insert phrases such as **gen. nov.** or **sp. nov.** The former stands for *genus novum*, meaning a new genus, while the latter stands for *species novum*, meaning a new species. Less familiar to most readers are the abbreviations used when nothing new is being described but names are moved around. When a species is moved from one genus to a different one, the name is followed by **comb. nov.** which stands for *combinatio nova*, or new combination. Thus moving *Epidendrum tampense* to *Encyclia tampensis* constitutes a **comb. nov.**

If the name in question changes hierarchical rank (genus to section, species to variety, etc.), the new name is followed by **stat. nov.** which stands for *status novus*, meaning a new rank (status). Thus when *Oncidium varicosum* var. *insigne* was recognised as a good species in its own right, the name *Oncidium insigne* was followed by **stat. nov.** Finally, there are names that are moved not just to a different rank but also to a new genus. These get both abbreviations added as **comb. et stat. nov.**, with *et* meaning and, in Latin. Thus moving *Epidendrum tampense* var. *albolabium* to a form as *Encyclia tampensis* forma *albolabia*



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constitutes a *comb. et stat. nov.*

All of these alerts to the reader are only used the first time the name in question appears in print and are not repeated in further citations.

When attempting to identify a plant several Latin abbreviations are encountered. These are italicised because they are in a foreign language. One of these is **aff.** which stands for *affinis*, meaning akin to. This means that the botanist does not think it is the species in question but rather a closely related species unknown to the botanist. This is usually inserted between the genus and species names. So if the botanist had never seen *Encyclia randii* they might label a specimen of it as *Encyclia aff. cordigera*. This abbreviation is also used with the Latin *vel*, meaning or, as **vel aff.**, and typically follows the species epithet. This indicates that the botanist thinks that it is either the species in question or a closely related one. The reed-stem *Epidendrum* species, *E. secundum*, is a taxonomic nightmare of closely related species that are frequently highly variable. Thus there are numerous herbarium specimens labelled *Epidendrum secundum*, *vel aff.*

A second frequently encountered abbreviation is **cf.** (rarely as **cfr.**) which stands for *confer*, meaning to compare. This is used when a botanist believes the identification is correct but does not have enough knowledge of the species in question to be absolutely certain. This has a practical aspect of getting the material in the proverbial ballpark for a specialist or future student of the group.

Two other words are used when relating the work physically before you to previous efforts. One of these is **vide**, which means to see. Most people are more familiar with the abbreviation **q.v.**, which stands for *quod vide*, meaning which see. These terms are used to direct the reader to more information, but information that is not necessary to understand the text at hand. The other term, at times interchangeable with *vide*, is **fide**, meaning according to. The term *fide* generally applies to a previously published work, such as "*fide* Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India" meaning according to J. D. Hooker (the *f.* stands for *filius*, meaning son of, referring to the younger Hooker as opposed to his father, William Jackson Hooker) in the *Flora of British India*.

All of the information here and so much more is contained in William Stearn's *Botanical Latin*, one of a

taxonomist's more important bibles. As well as being a complete book on botanical Latin, it provides a phenomenal amount of information on the historic use of Latin in science. It allows one to go to Lindley's description of *Ipsea speciosa*, the spectacular Daffodil Orchid from Sri Lanka, and understand "*hab. s. sp. et v. ic. pict.*" or *habitus siccus specimen et vidi icon pictus*, which, after some wrangling, means "I know the habit from a dried specimen and I have seen a coloured illustration". As I said at the onset, taxonomists are particularly good at compressing information. (This article was reprinted from the *Orchid Digest* 72(2): 114-115, 2008).

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Interstate entries are encouraged with a prize for the most travelled orchid.

Dates: Fri 3rd Sept 10am to 4pm
Sat 4th Sept 9am to 4pm [Closed for judging b/w 11am and 12 noon on Sat 4th]
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AOR 072





A Story of Miss Muffet

by Terence Davis, plant & photos by D.P. Banks

No, not the nursery rhyme but the orchid named *Cymbidium* Miss Muffet 'Lena'. Miss Muffet 'Lena' or as it was probably known then as simply *Cym. Miss Muffet* (*Cym. devonianum* 'something' x *Cym. pumilum* var. *album* 'something') came into my possession as a seedling purchased with others of similar breeding such as Miss Muffet x *devonianum* etc. from Ezi-Gro Orchids in Western Australia and I am sure that it along with the others were Andy Easton hybrid crosses. I subsequently gave this seedling – after blooming – the clonal name 'Lena' after my wife.

Well before I purchased the plant I needed some orchids to fill the gap when the general run of cymbidiums has

finished flowering and having a preference for miniature and intermediate cymbidiums, plants of *pumilum* and *devonianum* in their parentage fitted the bill as the general expectation is for them to flower in late September or October.

The plant *Cymbidium* Miss Muffet 'Lena' is a small growing cymbidium orchid with miniature brown spotted flowers with a red *devonianum* style lip that cascade around the edge of the pot. The flowers are not showbench quality by any stretch of the imagination and being a primary hybrid one shouldn't expect too much. The plant has outlasted many a showbench pony that has lost its charm and ability on the showbench.

These are generally relegated to the market sales or are passed on to the novice growers as practice, as they are not bad flowers, just dated.

So, if the plant is not a show plant why buy it in the first place and why keep it? Well it is like this, when you buy seedlings you don't know what you are going to get as far as flower quality goes until they flower and in the case of *Cymbidium* Miss Muffet 'Lena' the flower is average but the plant will live on in my collection and that of others as it is such a small growing plant with pseudobulbs only 3 cm high and barely 2cm wide all with the natural arch of the leaves' barely 40cm above the rim of the 125mm to 150mm pots that are

sufficient size to grow this orchid, so therefore it doesn't take up much room in the bush-house and hangs on a wire above head height where it gets plenty of light. As a bonus, a good pot full of newly maturing pseudobulbs can have 10 or more flower spikes that really make a show in such a small pot and is a talking point with visitors to the backyard.

Cymbidium Miss Muffet 'Lena' is a very easy plant to grow and flowers easily and reliably each year and even when divided into oops! the knife slipped too far in or that shouldn't have come apart there divisions, the small

pieces still manages to flower the following year. Just went and checked at the four pieces from the plant that was divided after flowering in late October and all have flower spikes the large piece has three.

For those newer growers that might be interested the plants are growing under opal polycarbonate roofing approximately 2.75 metres high (9 feet for us oldies) that when new has 56% light transmission (this decreases with age), the plants, as are all my cymbidiums are grown in a mixture of medium coir mulch chips 8 parts, 12mm composted pine bark 2 parts, Styrofoam chips 2mm

– 10mm 2 parts, medium perlite 1 part and rice husks ½ part. The plants are fertilised weekly with a home mixed fertiliser that provides approximately that recommended in a study done in the late seventies and reprinted in the *Australian Orchid Review* in the early 1980's by Poole and Seeley plus extra nitrogen to allow for nitrogen drawdown. Plants are watered when required with rainwater from water captured from the roof of the growing area, so only get wet when they need it.

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Oncidium Gower Ramsey
'Lemon Heart'
(individual bloom)



Oncidium Gower Ramsey
'Lemon Heart'
(part of inflorescence)

New Colour Form of *Oncidium Gower Ramsey*

Text and photos by David Banks

Many styles of *Oncidium* hybrids are used extensively as cut flowers and other floral work. The 1977 registered hybrid of *Oncidium Gower Ramsey* (Goldiana x Guinea Gold) would be arguably one of the most popular varieties grown for this market. The normal form of this hybrid has a bright yellow skirt or labellum with the petals and sepals barred in brown and darker yellow.

Recently, a new cultivar – believed to have arisen as a mutation from tissue culture – bloomed with orange flowers, not the common yellow. It was named 'Sunkist' and featured in the AOR a couple of years ago.

Another new and attractive mutation has now reached our shores, this one being an albinistic form without any of the brown markings in the tepals, which has been replaced with a greenish yellow. It has been given the clonal name of 'Lemon Heart' and is destined to become a popular plant in cultivation.

Flowering plants of *Oncidium Gower Ramsey* 'Lemon Heart' were released for the first time by Fong Ping Orchids

at the recent successful Sydney International Orchid Fair (www.orchidfair.com.au) held at Castle Hill, NSW. Large plants in bloom were selling for just under \$50 each. (This is not to be confused with the registered hybrid *Oncidium Lemon Heart* – which is from quite different breeding.)

This is a very vigorous hybrid with its breeding background only involving three common and hardy species. It is half *Oncidium sphacelatum* with a quarter each of *Oncidium varicosum* and *Oncidium flexuosum*.

It is suited to a range of climates from tropical (where frequently used as a garden plant attached to suitable trees) to cooler temperate conditions. As a bonus, mature plants have the ability to often bloom a couple of times a year – making it an attractive addition to the miscellaneous orchid collection. ■

David Banks

Seven Hills, NSW

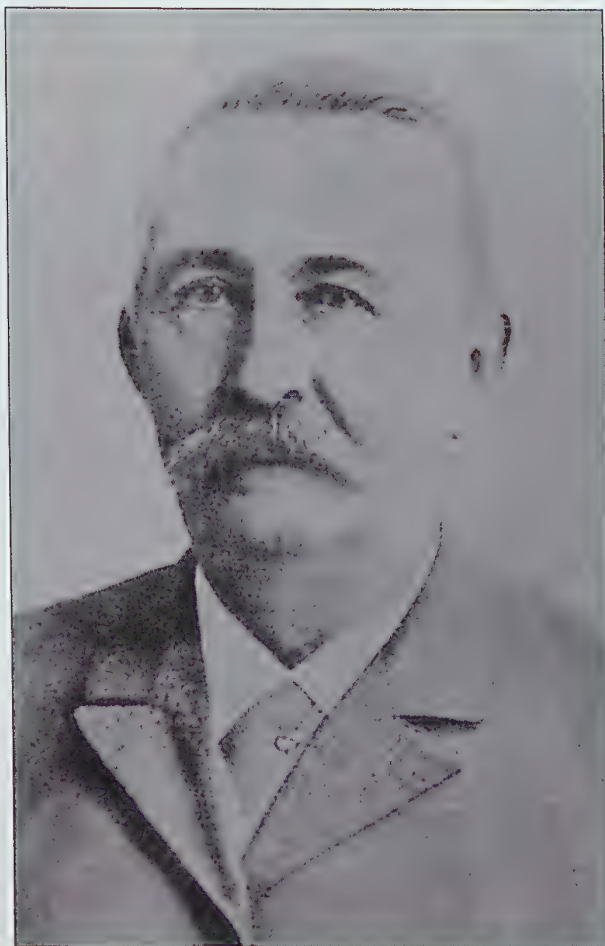
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Lepanthes maxonii
Schlechter





Lepanthes horrida Rchb.f.



Portrait of Hermann Wendland, collector of the type-material

Lepanthes horrida

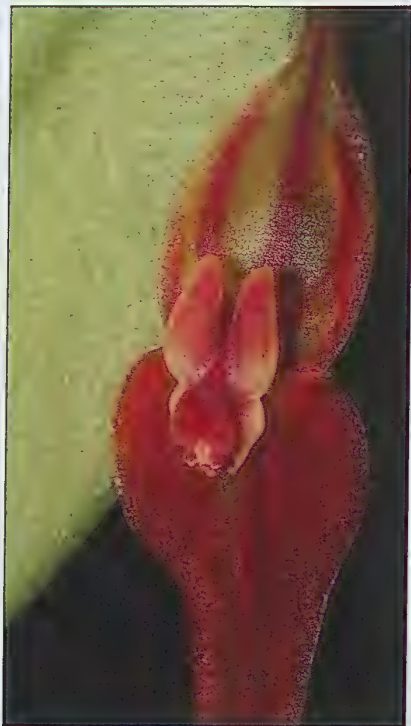
by Rudolf Jenny

The genus *Lepanthes* was described by Olof Swartz in 1799 in *Nova Acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum Upsaliensis*. The first description is rather short, Swartz wrote: "Char.Gen. Corolla sub-5 petala, patens: Petala tria exteriora basi coalita; interiori difformia. Labellum nullum sed Alae duae minutissimae, columnae basi 1. apici adnatae". Labellum nullum means "no lip", we know that all *Lepanthes* species actually do have a lip (labellum) but Swartz had obviously some problems with the separation of the complex formed petals and the lip. *Index Kewensis* lists in 1895 some 105 binomials of *Lepanthes*, today the number of described species is above 900. Many species of this large genus are

known to have small to minute flowers, but some have also both large and showy flowers. One of those large-flowered species is *Lepanthes horrida* Rchb.f. representing a group of closely allied and often mislabelled species.

Hermann Wendland, born 11th October 1825 in the library-pavillon at the Berggarten in Herrenhausen, followed later on his father Heinrich Ludolph Wendland as director at the Herrenhäuser Gärten in Hannover. After his education he travelled from the end of 1856 to mid of 1857 through Guatemala and Costa Rica. He returned to Herrenhausen with a large collection of living plants, beside many cacti, ferns, bromeliads and palms, he also imported

138 different species of orchids. In Herrenhausen a separate "Costa Rica" house for the collected material was erected. Wendland also collected plants for his herbarium; especially the small members of the orchid family were an important part of this collection. After his return, Wendland sent the dried plants for determination to Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach in Hamburg. Reichenbach published the results of his studies in *Beiträge zu einer Orchideenkunde Central-Amerika's* in 1866. Together with other species of the genus he also described *Lepanthes horrida* as a new species. The plant was collected by Wendland in May 1857 near Desengano in Costa Rica. The description of the



Above: *Lepanthes horrida* Rchb.f.

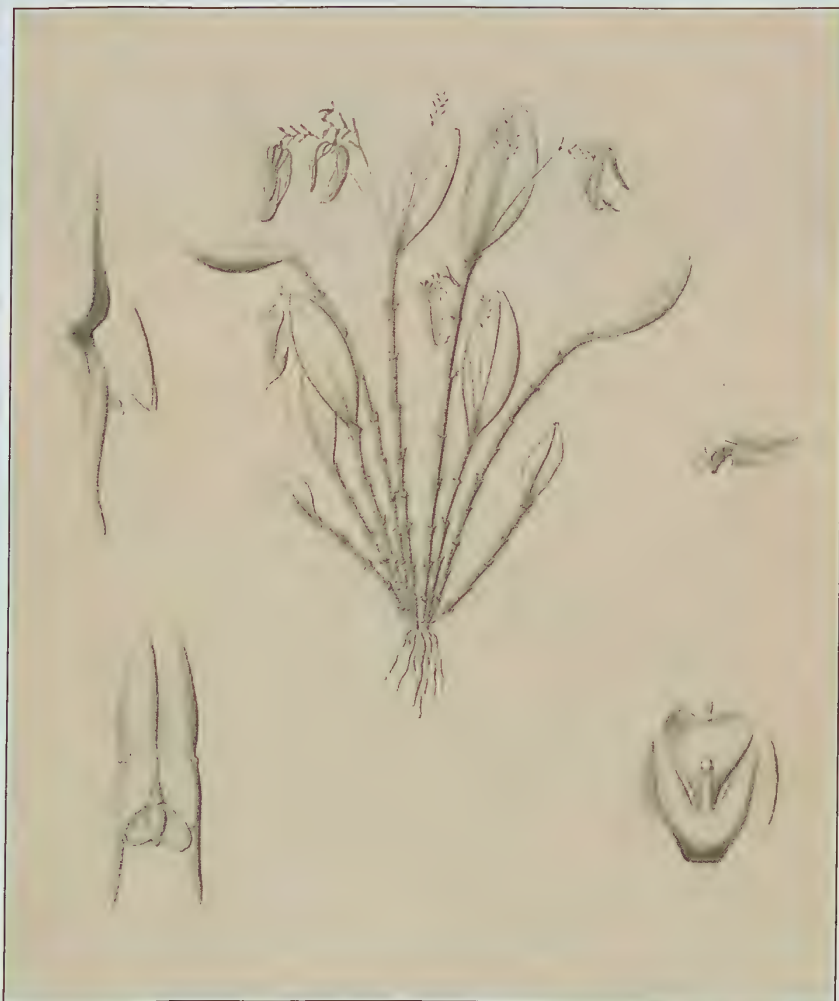
species is rather short and obviously Reichenbach had at this time only dried material and no illustration in his hands. The often used citation of the first description of *Lepanthes horrida* in *Bonplandia* in 1855, is definitely wrong, Reichenbach's article in *Bonplandia* was about an orchid collection from Wagener from Venezuela and has nothing to do with Wendland's plants.

One of the most prolific collectors of Orchids in Costa Rica and also a very gifted botanical artist was Augustus R. Endres. He was most interested in small orchid-plants, the herbarium of Reichenbach in Vienna include a huge number of dried specimens and also a large number of perfect pencil-drawings and handwritten descriptions of small

orchids like *Lepanthes* or *Pleurothallis*. Endres was successful as a collector, as many species are named after him, his life was - until about a year ago - more or less unknown. In the last year a project was started with the target to collect all available biographical data and information about all of his collections and travels. In the same project all his herbarium specimens, descriptions and drawings from the Reichenbach herbarium in Vienna where checked and scanned. The final result of the project will be a book about Endres, his life and his collections, illustrated with examples from his drawings.

In Reichenbach's herbarium we find three sheets with descriptions and

Below: Drawing of *Lepanthes horrida* by A.R. Endres (Reichenbach W0019359)



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drawings of *Lepanthes horrida* by Endres. The sheet no.36200 (W0019359) shows one of the perfect pencil drawings by Endres of a *Lepanthes* species without name. It was Carl Luer who recognised it as *Lepanthes horrida* in June 1991. Sheet no.38527 (W0019356) shows another most perfect drawing of the species, together with an enlarged and coloured flower and a detailed handwritten description of the plant. On sheet no.36517 (W0019358) we find a single, enlarged flower in colour and on sheet no.38668 (W0019357) several sketches which are the raw drafts of the drawings on sheet no.36200 and no.38527. Obviously Endres had sent Reichenbach the drafts and later also the final drawings. All those who know the size of *Lepanthes* flowers and their parts, can estimate what it means to produce such accurate drawings.

Lepanthes horrida belongs to a small group of very similar species from

Central America, some of them probably belonging to the same species. *Lepanthes maxonii* is a separate but certainly close allied species and was described by Rudolf Schlechter in 1913 after a plant collected by W.R. Maxon (no.5494) in March 1911 in Panama. A first drawing of the species was published after Schlechter's death by Rudolf Mansfeld in *Feddes Repertorium* in 1931, it was based on Schlechter's own drawing which was 1943 during the war lost together with his herbarium in Berlin. Fortunately enough Oakes Ames paid Alexandra, the wife of Rudolf Schlechter, to copy the drawings of her husband from Central American Orchids, so we find a copy of the drawing of plant and flower of the type-specimen in the Ames herbarium, together with a drawing of the dried type-specimen from Maxon.

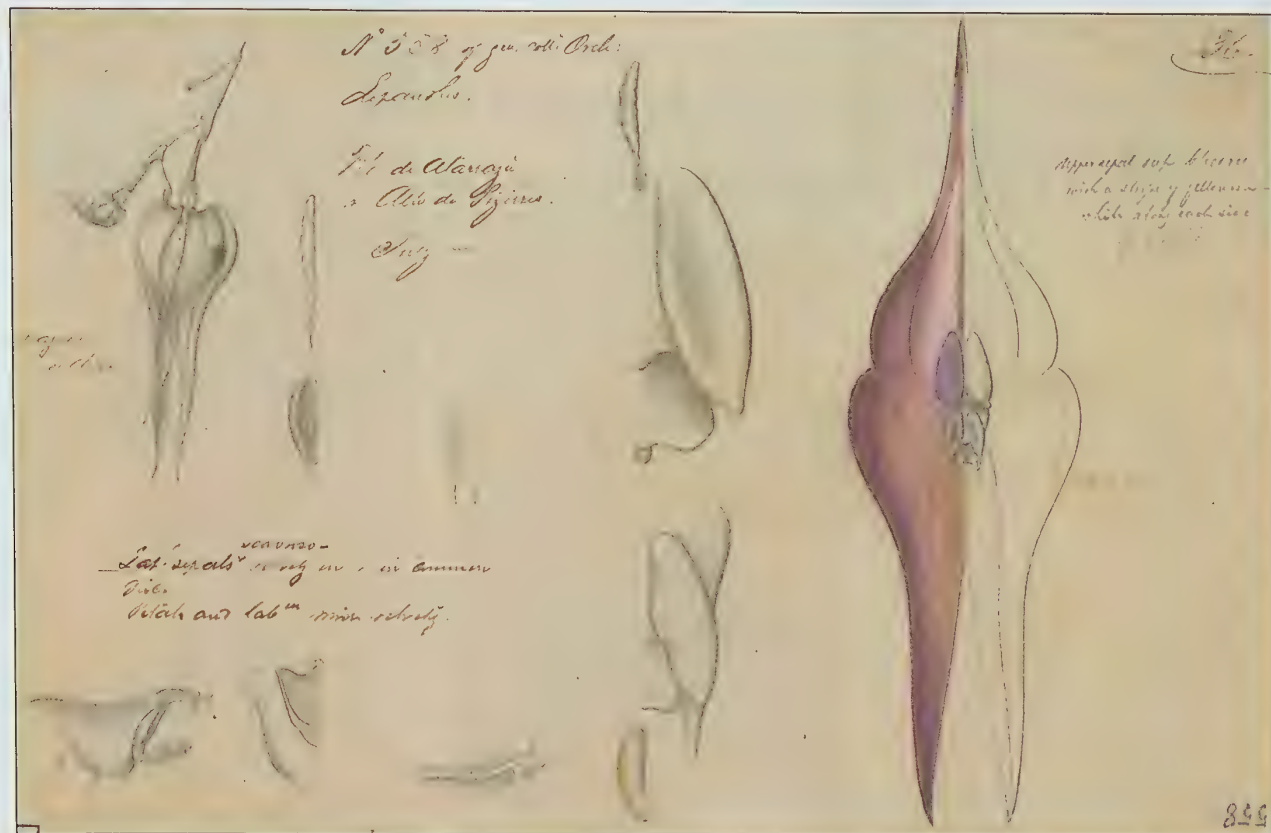
Oakes Ames described 1923 in his *Schedulae Orchidiana* *Lepanthes rostrata* after a plant collected by Charles

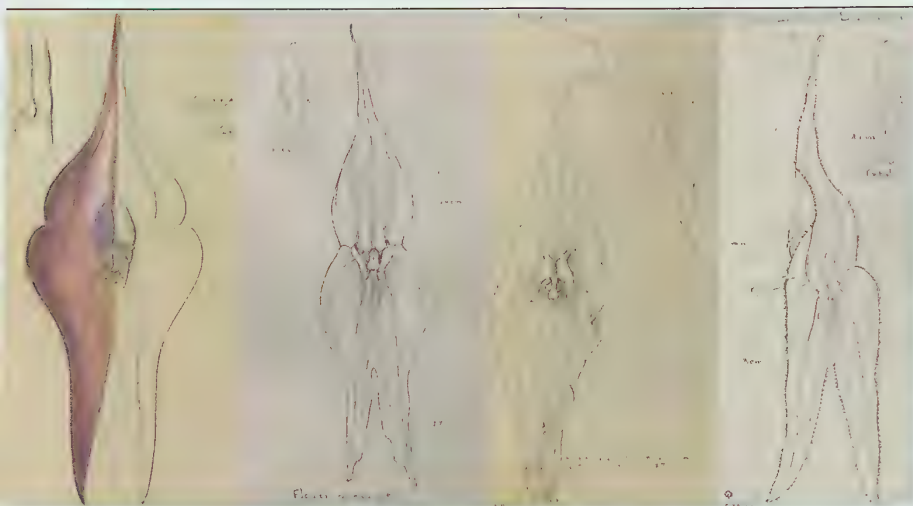
Lankester in Costa Rica, Ames wrote that the species would be similar to *Lepanthes horrida* but: "differs conspicuously in having all of the sepals caudate, a dissimilar labellum and hispidulous petals". The type-sheet in the Ames herbarium includes a very detailed and clear drawing of the flower and its parts. I. Ferreras and G.A. Romero classified Ames' species in 2005 as synonym of *Lepanthes horrida* Rchb.f.

Lepanthes sanchoi was described by Ames 1923 in *Schedulae Orchidiana* based on a plant collected in February 1923 by Charles Lankester and Alfredo Sancho in Costa Rica. Ames wrote: "In habit similar to *Lepanthes horrida* Reichb.f., but with a very different labellum and petals". Also of this species we find a detailed drawing of the flower on the type-sheet.

Most probably *Lepanthes sanchoi* has to be considered like *Lepanthes rostrata* as a synonym of *Lepanthes horrida*.

Below: Drawing of *Lepanthes horrida*
by A.R.Endres (Reichenbach W0019356)

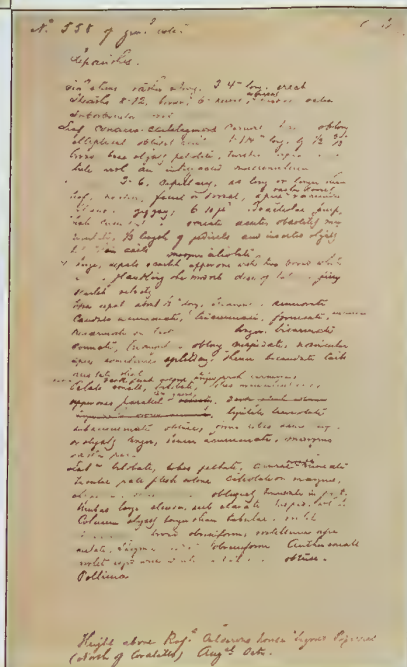




Above: Comparison of *Lepanthes horrida*, *Lepanthes rostrata*, *Lepanthes maxonii* and *Lepanthes sanchoi* (from left to right)



Left and below: Drafts and description of *Lepanthes horrida* by A.R. Endres (Reichenbach W0019357)



Lepanthes horrida should be grown in the cool house with high humidity, good air circulation and protected from direct sun.

Literature:

- Ames, O. (1923) *Schedulae Orchidianae* 4:34 - 35
- Ames, O. (1923) *Schedulae Orchidianae* 5:22 - 23
- Mansfeld, R. (1931) *Feddes Repertorium Beihefte* 49(2):t.40, fig.158
- Ossenbach, C. (2007) *Orchids* 76:594 - 601
- Ossenbach, C. (2009) *Lankesteriana* 9(1-2):1 - 268
- Reichenbach, H.G.fil. (1855) *Bonplandia* 3:70
- Schlechter, R. (1913) *Feddes Repertorium* 12:204

Rudolf Jenny
Moosweg 9, 3112
Allmendingen, Switzerland
Email: rjorchid@gmx.ch

Below: Drawing of *Lepanthes horrida* by A.R. Endres (Reichenbach W0019358)



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AOR 028



An Unusual Habitat for *Thrixspermum amplexicaule* in the Philippines

by Jim Cootes

In early October 2009 I received an email from a friend in the Philippines, asking for the identification of a *Thrixspermum* species he had seen, whilst hiking in the Lake Mahagnao Volcanic National Park, on the island of Leyte, in the southern Philippines.

The identification was straightforward, as the plant in question was the widespread *Thrixspermum amplexicaule*, found throughout most of south-east Asia, at low elevations. It is also one of the few *Thrixspermum* species which has lavender blooms.

What amazed me though was where these plants were growing. Previous encounters with *Thrixspermum*

amplexicaule were in Singapore, and these plants were growing amongst grasses on swampy ground around a dam. Obviously it requires constant humid conditions, and being a tropical lowland species unvarying warmth throughout the year.

Much of the Philippine archipelago is volcanic in origin and there are many active volcanoes dotted amongst the islands. One of the by-products of these volcanoes is the hot water streams that dot the edges of the slopes. According to my friend the water in this stream was at boiling point and the local people use the water to boil chicken eggs. Also there are continual clouds of steam

rising, as the water makes its way down the slopes of the volcano. The elevation here was about 1,000 metres above sea level.

Along the edge of this hot and steamy stream was the habitat for the *Thrixspermum amplexicaule* plants. I also noticed, in the images, that there were plants of a pitcher plant species (probably *Nepenthes alata*), along with a number of grasses, small shrubs and ferns in the same locality. The area where the *Thrixspermum amplexicaule* were growing covered about 100 square metres.

I don't know if plants of *Thrixspermum amplexicaule* are in general cultivation, but if the above is their usual habitat, I

believe they may be difficult to grow as it is impossible to recreate its natural environment. I never cease to be amazed as to where plants can grow, survive and prosper in their native habitat. But then again, orchids grow where orchids grow.

My sincere thanks go to Ronny Boos and Wojtek Nieszporek for providing me with the featured pictures and information about this unique habitat. Also to André Schuiteman of the National Herbarium Netherlands, Leiden University for the use of the flower image off their *Malesian Orchid Genera Illustrated* website.

Jim Cootes

Riverwood, NSW

Email: jecootes@ozemail.com.au



Above: Orchid is at very centre of photograph



Left: *Thrixspermum amplexicaule*

Photo: André Schuiteman



Above: Close up of *Thrixspermum* plant

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Laelia purpurata, The Queen

by L. C. Menezes, 243pp, 3 maps, 267 colour photographs,
1 watercolour, 6 historic coloured plates, hardcover (27 cm), 2009.
Instituto Brasileiro de Meio Ambiente (IBAMA), Brasília.
ISBN 978-85-7300-289-8

Laelia purpurata has also become the unwitting poster child for the nomenclatural ravages brought upon by modern molecular studies which base classification almost entirely on inferred phylogeny from divergence of DNA. This has led *Laelia purpurata*, originally described by Lindley and Paxton in 1852, to undergo shifts to the genera *Sophranitis* (2000), *Hadrolaelia* (2002), *Brasilaelia* (2006), *Chironiella* (2006), and finally back to *Cattleya* (1854, although often cited from 2008). The last is an unholy compromise satisfying few and one can't help but think of the old joke that a camel is a horse designed by committee. Mind you, all agree that South American species once attributed to *Laelia* are rather unrelated to true *Laelia*, with a centre of diversity in Mexico. The problem is where to put the South American species once they are removed. Well, the real problem is scientists who feel that discussion of phylogeny must be accented with wholesale name changes, but that is a lengthy discussion outside this review format.

So why an entire book devoted to a single species, regardless of its showiness? Well, *Laelia purpurata* stirs a very special kind of passion in Brazil. And in my travels in the U.S., I note that when I see a select clone of *L. purpurata* in someone's collection, there are usually also several additional plants of the species representing different colour variations. Like potato chips, you can't have just one. In Brazil this has led to a mystifying horticultural classification and nomenclature for every possible nuance of colour, patterning, and combinations thereof. Menezes tackles this near chaos and presents the current classification which recognises 31 formal horticultural varieties.

This would hardly be a resolution if the book wasn't lavishly illustrated with 259 colour photographs of *L. purpurata*,

with only limited duplication of individual clones. All of these effectively illustrate the application of this complex system of names. In addition, there are three photographs and one watercolour of the natural hybrid *Lc. Elegans* (*L. purpurata* x *C. tigrina*), one of the elegant primary hybrid *Lc. Canhamiana* (*L. purpurata* x *C. mossiae*), and four habitat photographs.

Throughout the various chapters, Menezes does a wonderful job recording the horticultural history of the species in Brazil. Thus the people involved in collecting unusual colour forms as well as those who propagated and subsequently distributed these are duly noted. All too often all this kind of information is lost and we are left with little more than an initial date of introduction to horticulture. There is also much insider information that might be well known in Brazil, but is unknown outside the region. Perhaps my favourite was learning that *L. purpurata* var. *roxobispo* got its name from someone comparing the flower's lip colour to that of the stockings worn by a particular Catholic Bishop in Porto Alegre.

One of the most common complaints among beginning growers is that they can't flower *Cattleyas* and almost always the cause is inadequate light levels.

Below: *Laelia purpurata*
(Plant & photo: Graham Jackson)



Most gardeners probably think of orchid people as a bit odd, living in a highly specialised world of flamboyant flowers but also inhabited by small, rather odd looking things unlikely to make it to a flower arrangement. Not only that, but many of the prized orchids are in shades of green or brown. You don't really hear about exciting new brown-flowered roses, for example. Wouldn't they be amazed how within this often rarified world there are specialists who focus not only on a single type of orchid, like lady's slipper enthusiasts, but even a single species! Thus there are conferences and published proceedings devoted to *Ansellia* in southern Africa, a genus of one or two species depending on the taxonomist, and *Dendrobium kingianum* in Australia. Now we have a book devoted to yet another single species, *Laelia purpurata*, endemic to Brazil.

Laelia purpurata is a spectacularly showy species and I freely admit it is one of my favourite orchids. It is also important as the State Flower of Santa Catarina and a recognisable element of the Mata Atlantica, a unique coastal habitat that has been reduced to less than 10% of its original range. The Mata Atlantica is also home to the equally splashy sister species *Laelia tenebrosa*. All discussions of conservation in Brazil always start and finish with the plight of the Mata Atlantica.

An explanation of how to flower the plants usually includes finding something in the room close to the desired shade of green that the leaves should resemble: dark green = too little light, yellow-green = too much light. The habitat photograph of *L. purpurata* on page 195 reinforces what seasoned growers know, which is to grow *L. purpurata* with Cattleyas but in even brighter light levels, levels that would be deleterious to many of its relatives. The photograph shows a magnificent specimen plant growing on the middle of a huge boulder without any shade and without any accumulation of organic material at the roots. One glimpse of that photograph will permanently imprint the exact growing conditions required for *L. purpurata*. I would also add that the incredibly extensive root system shown all but resembles a tablecloth laid out on the boulder, reinforcing the notion that in epiphytes and lithophytes from seasonally dry areas (e.g., *Vanda*, many *Dendrobium*), it is the roots that are all important, and not the leaves and pseudobulbs.

Lou Menezes, a forestry engineer with the Brazilian Environmental Institute, has spent her adult life popularising orchids and this book adds to that legacy. It is hard to say what the market for such a focused book will be. I can warn those who look at pictures and then add the plants to their shopping list to be wary. This book will more than whet the appetite, we're talking possible addiction. The book should be considered by all orchid judges, since the diversity in *L. purpurata* offers many challenges. Different variants have distinct aesthetic appeal, and I doubt a purely analytical approach based on measurements, and such, can fully do justice to this "Queen of the Coastal Forests."

Eric Christenson

Email: orchideric@juno.com

This book is available in Australia exclusively from Florilegium for \$95.00, phone 02 9571-8222.



Above: Group of *Laelia purpurata* var. *alba*
(Plants: Hills District Orchids, photo: D.P. Banks)

FLORA'S ORCHIDS

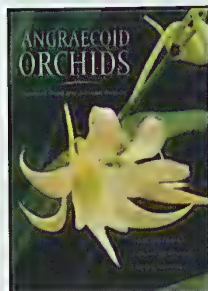
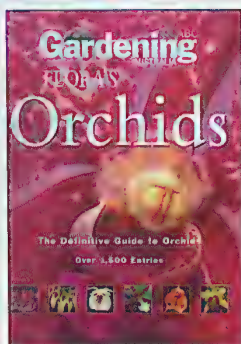
Senior Consultant David P. Banks

Part of the best-selling Flora range, this is the definitive guide to orchids with over 1,500 entries. Ranging from the unique to the unusual, the beautiful to the bizarre, orchids have long symbolised beauty, elegance and refinement. *Flora's Orchids* presents more than 1,500 varieties of this highly variable plant family, with entries accompanied by at least 1,300 stunning colour photographs. The orchids are arranged by genus in an A-Z format. Each entry first lists the scientific name in Latin, often accompanied by a Latin synonym and, where appropriate, the translated common name. Plant spread and height are listed, followed by symbols indicating plant type, natural growing locations, growing conditions, frost tolerance, preferred temperatures, type of flower, and preference for pot or mount cultivation. The brief descriptions explain the type of genus, geographic area, and flowering and dormancy seasons. There is a wealth of sound cultural and propagation advice.

AOR Editor David P. Banks was the Senior Consultant for *Flora's Orchids* and is also credited as the Principal Writer. Especially valuable for aspiring botanists and average gardeners is the background information that precedes the dictionary text and explains orchid varieties, taxonomy, hybridisation, history, cultivation, propagation, and more. The history section delves into the fascinating historical development of the plant for culinary and medicinal usage and also explores the use of orchids in folklore and literature. A detailed cultivation table for each of the species is found in the appendix. This work is regarded by many as the logical replacement of *What Orchid Is That?*

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ANGRAECOID ORCHIDS: Species from the African Region by Joyce Stewart, Johan Hermans, and Bob Campbell

These so-called 'Jewels of Africa' with their sparkling flowers, distinctive growth habit and floriferous nature are much prized and this account, the first to include the angraecoid orchids of both Africa and Madagascar, is long awaited. It brings together, in a single volume, descriptions of all 690 species in this intriguing group of orchids and will be the essential reference for all angraecoid orchid enthusiasts for years to come. Stewart, Herman and Campbell have all spent time in various parts of eastern and southern Africa and precise ecological information relating to habitat, altitude preferences and flowering season of individual plants will be particularly helpful to growers. The diagnostic features of each genus are illustrated and over half the species are accompanied by exquisite photographs taken in both wild habitats and in cultivation. The authors know the angraecoid orchids well, both in cultivation and the wild, and this knowledge has led to an authoritative account of these interesting plants.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some species that would require artificial heating in winter. This volume covers a further 314 species, including 344 colour photographs. It is recommended to all orchid growers and collectors who wish to see an array of beautiful flowers that they could grow.

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ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN How to grow orchids in the backyard by Robert Friend

It sounds too good to be true, but orchids are as easy to grow in the backyard as a lawn or a bed of roses. Despite their exotic reputation, the everyday gardener can grow orchids without special pots or greenhouses.

The book shows you how to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000 species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are plants suitable for every garden.

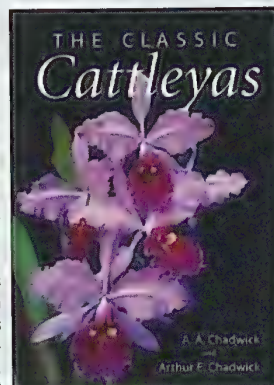
Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

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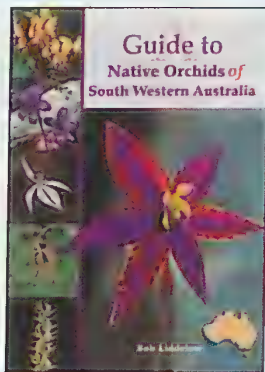
THE CLASSIC CATTLEYAS by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick

In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.



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A GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by Bob Liddelov

This book beautifully illustrates the orchids of this part of Australia. Bob Liddelov has spent a considerable amount of time in the field, each season, seeking out many different orchids.

This is an Orchid Guide with a difference. Instead of covering all species with total distribution areas, this book treats a very representative collection of orchids in great detail. The specific sites for each orchid are illustrated with 'mud maps'.

The book also cross-references some 142 orchids with about 100 sites in the greater south-west of Western Australia. Every orchid is illustrated in full colour.

There is also comprehensive indexes, a glossary, author's notes and more.

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SARCOCHILUS ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA

by Walter T. Upton

Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia is the first book to cover all aspects of species of the genus *Sarcochilus*. Compact plants of great floral beauty with ease of culture, they are mostly cool to cold growing, requiring limited space, and for these reasons are quickly becoming the orchid of the future.

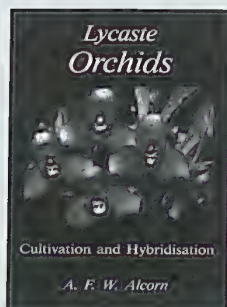
The book gives individual species a separate description, information on its cultivation, habitat, and distribution, along with a detailed description of the main parts of the plant and flower, plus a colour plate providing an easy means of identification.

Hybridising, including generics, is dealt with in detail – most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

This is Walter T. Upton's third book and is a companion to his very popular and informative *Dendrobium Orchids of Australia*.

119 pages, colour and B&W.

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LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation

by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of

Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages.
Colour and B&W.

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GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

by James Neal

This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, *Phalaenopsis*.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

Explanations of the way *Phalaenopsis* are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages.
Colour and B&W.



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PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN ORCHID GROWING

by Wayne Turville

The 64 page *Practical Guide to Australian Orchid Growing* was over two years in the making, being written by Wayne Turville who runs a large commercial orchid nursery in Victoria, Australia – specialising in Australian *Dendrobium* hybrids. This book was written for everybody from the absolute amateur through to the hardened "orchid nut". However, due to its low cost and practical nature, this book fills a huge void in orchid literature. Simple, easy to understand language, lots of pictures, and glorious examples of some of the finest native orchids ever photographed both in nature and at orchid shows.

The title is somewhat misleading, as the text covers major cultivation principles for ALL orchid genera, not just the Australian native *Dendrobium* species and their hybrids. Topics covered (and illustrated) include Blooms, Starting a Collection, Housing Your Orchids, Day to Day Growing, Pests and Diseases, Physical Damage, *Cymbidiums* and *Sarcochilus*, plus Bits and Pieces (information about orchid propagation, orchid societies and deflasking.). This booklet is recommended for all new orchid enthusiasts, and all who want to brush up on their cultural skills and knowledge.

64 pages, colour.
210mm x 146mm.
Softcover.

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Three different colour forms of
Cymbidium canaliculatum
growing in a gum tree some 120
kilometres from the coast near
Munderra, North Queensland
Photo: David Banks

Mingara Orchid Fair and Show

by Phil Spence



The Mingara Orchid Club will again host the 8th annual Fair and Show, on the weekend of the 26th - 27th June 2010, in the auditorium of the Mingara Recreational Club Ltd, Mingara Drive (off Wyong Road) Tumbi Umbi on the Central Coast, NSW.

Last year was the first time the Orchid Club took full control of running both the fair and show. The seven previous years were run by Mingara Fair

committee. Last year we had over 4,500 people through the doors, all free of charge. This year we hope to be even better. We will have the auditorium full of vendors from New South Wales and many other states. Orchids will be available for everyone to buy, and it's FREE entry.

The show will be housed in the extended Tasman rooms. We expect to have a minimum of six displays from

various orchid societies and commercial vendors, also there will many small table top displays, and we expect to have a room full of beautiful Orchids. The show will be Judged by the Central Coast and Newcastle Judging Panel, a regional panel of the Orchid Society of New South Wales Ltd.

The Mingara Recreational Club is fully supportive of this Sub club and this fabulous venue with our endeavour to

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Visit the website for details of the plants and accessories available
www.collectorsplantfair.com



Above: Major Prizewinners from 2009 Show

bring beauty to the Central Coast. The facilities at this club are extremely good, plenty of food outlets to choose from, and all the club extras. We welcome you to come along to see the fair and show even if you don't grow orchids, you may care to start a new hobby. There will be a great variety of orchids and other plants to see or to purchase if you desire.

Everyone is welcome, and if coming by car, coach or bus Mingara Recreational Club has plenty of space to park within close walking distance. So put this date in your diary 26th - 27th June 2010. Remember there is no charge for admission. All you have to do is sign into the club on the day you come along.

If you need any further information please contact Anne Nuttall {Phone: (02) 4351 0891} or Email a_dservics@optusnet.com.au

Phil Spence

Email: philspenceorchidpro@msn.com

Mobile: 0408-994696

The Eighth

Mingara Orchid Fair and Show

Saturday 26th June – 9AM - 5PM, Sunday 27th June – 9AM - 3PM

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April 17-18 Collectors' Plant Fair
(www.collectorsplantfair.com) – Bilpin NSW

May 15-16 A Foundation in Orchids
(www.australianorchidfoundation.org.au)
– Chadstone Victoria

May 21-23 Orchids Out West
(www.orchidsocietynsw.com.au) – Hawkesbury NSW

June 11-13 Tropical Queensland Orchid Council
Conference & Show – Townsville Qld

June 12-14 Sub-Tropical Orchid Council Show
– Caloundra Qld

June 26-27 Mingara Orchid Fair – Central Coast NSW

July 11 Tinonee Orchids Open Day & Show
(www.tinoneeorchids.com) – Taree NSW

July 25 Hills District Orchids Winter Open Day
(www.hillsdistrictorchids.com) – Northmead NSW

August 6-8 National Orchid Extravaganza
(www.ccansw.com.au) – Dural NSW

August 7-8 2010 National Cymbidium Show
(www.cymbidiumclubwa.com.au) – Perth WA

August 13-15 St Ives Orchid Fair – St Ives Showground NSW

August 20-22 Melbourne International Orchid
Spectacular (www.oscvo.asn.au) & Victorian
International Orchid Fair (www.orchidfair.com.au)
– Springers, Keysborough Victoria

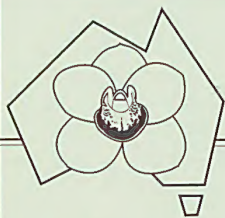
August 25-29 ANOS National Conference & Show
(www.anos.org.au) – Newcastle NSW

September 3-5 Dendrobium speciosum Spectacular
– Kempsey NSW

September 9-12 Australian Springtime Flora Festival
– Mt Penang NSW

September 18-19 Orchids in the Wetlands
– Newcastle NSW

September 26 Hills District Orchids Spring Open Day
(www.hillsdistrictorchids.com) – Northmead NSW



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